



Summary

Legal authority, confidentiality and privacy

LEGAL AUTHORITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Census is conducted under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (The Act). The Act authorises the Australian Statistician to conduct a Census on a day appointed for that purpose by a Proclamation from the Governor-General, to collect information in relation to matters prescribed in the Census and Statistics (Census) Regulations 2015.

The Act empowers the Statistician to request persons to complete forms or answer questions. The ABS seeks the willing cooperation of members of the public. However, where a person refuses the Statistician may, by notice in writing, direct a person to complete a form or answer a question.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is committed to upholding the privacy, confidentiality and security of the personal information it collects. Not only does the ABS have strong legislative protections that safeguard the privacy of an individual's information, it has a proud 100-year history of maintaining community trust in the way it collects, uses, discloses and stores personal information collected in the Census.

Under the Census and Statistics Act 1905, the personal information you provide in the Census remains strictly confidential to the ABS. The ABS never has and never will release identifiable Census data. The Act requires the Statistician to publish results in a way that is not likely to identify a particular person, household or organisation. The ABS also has an obligation to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*, including the Australian Privacy Principles. The ABS recognises that protecting the privacy of individuals and the confidentiality of information supplied by them are paramount to the successful conduct of a Census.

While the Census collects information relating to each person and household in the country, it is not concerned with information about individuals as such. The Census is taken to provide information about the community as a whole and about groups within the community.

To ensure that confidentiality and privacy provisions are observed, a comprehensive set of practices is used by the ABS. These practices include legally binding all officers of the ABS to secrecy under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, including all temporary staff recruited for collection and processing of the Census. Section 19 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* forbids past or present officers of the ABS (which includes temporary staff) from divulging information collected under this Act, either directly or indirectly, under penalty of up to 120 penalty units (currently \$25,200) or imprisonment for up to two years, or both.

The ABS also maintains a Privacy Policy which sets out its personal information handling practices. The ABS Privacy Policy can be found at www.abs.gov.au/privacy. The Census Privacy Statement will be released before August 2016 and will be found at census.abs.gov.au.

In 2016, more Australians than ever are expected to complete their Census form online. The ABS uses the strongest encryption technology that current internet browsers will support for the online Census to ensure information is delivered securely. All possible measures are taken to protect the integrity of the online site including comprehensive independent testing of its security and resilience. In addition, comprehensive security arrangements, already in use in the ABS, are used for online and paper Census forms, for access to ABS property and for ABS computer systems.

Any individual member of a household (including a visitor) can request their own unique login number for the online form, or a separate paper form and prepaid envelope.

The ABS only uses information collected in the Census for the purposes of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

Following the conduct of a Privacy Impact Assessment, the ABS made the decision in December 2015, to retain names and addresses from the 2016 Census. This will provide a richer and more dynamic statistical picture of Australia through the combination of Census data with other survey and administrative data.

The ABS's existing practices and obligations will continue to ensure that no information will be released in a way that would enable users of Census data to identify any individual or household.

The ABS will store names and addresses separately from other Census data as well as separately from each other. ABS officers will not be able to view identifying information (name and address) at the same time as other information you provide (such as occupation or level of education.)

Stored separately and securely, individuals names will also be substituted with a linkage key, a computer generated random set of numbers and letters, completely anonymising the personal information. Only these anonymous linkage keys will be used by the ABS to bring data sets together.

Consistent with the Australian Privacy Principles, the ABS will destroy names and addresses from the 2016 Census when there is no longer any community benefit to their retention or four years after collection (i.e. August 2020), whichever is earliest.

Further information is contained in the Privacy, confidentiality and security and Retention of names and addresses collected in the 2016 Census of Population and Housing documents.

Topic release schedule

RELEASE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

The first round of 2016 Census information will be released on Tuesday, 11 April, providing a preview of 2016 results and giving insight into what makes the 'typical' Australian in 2016, at the National and State and Territory level.

Following this, the results of the Census held on August 9 2016 will be released in 2017 in two main stages.

The first data from the 2016 Census will be released from 27 June 2017. The data will cover a wide range of Census topics and be presented in a variety of ways to cater for the needs of different users. Data will be released for almost all geographies for place of enumeration and place of usual residence.

Data regarding employment, qualifications and population mobility is scheduled to be released from October 2017. The complex nature of this data means that it requires extra time to be processed.

More information regarding the release schedule of 2016 Census data can be found in the Census Dictionary, 2016 (cat. no. 2901.0).

The lists below show when data related to each Census topic will be released. Each topic will have a number of data items associated with it.

JUNE 2017

Sex
Age
Residential status in non-private dwelling
Registered marital status
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin
Usual residence at Census time
Australian citizenship
Country of birth
Year of arrival in Australia
Country of birth of parents
Main language other than English spoken at home
Proficiency in spoken English
Ancestry

Religious Affiliation
Need for assistance
Attendance at an educational institution
Highest year of schooling completed
Number of children ever born
Income
Unpaid work
Address on Census night
Family relationship (and Social marital status)
Number of motor vehicles garaged
Number of bedrooms
Tenure type
Landlord type
Housing costs
Dwelling internet connection
Dwelling structure
Location of private dwelling
Type of non-private dwelling

OCTOBER 2017

Internal migration (address of usual residence 1 year ago and 5 years ago)
Non-school qualification
Labour force status
Status in employment
Occupation
Public or private employer indicator
Workplace address (Journey to work)
Industry of employment
Hours worked
Method of travel to work

Preface

PREFACE

This publication outlines the nature and content of Australia's next Census, to be held on Tuesday 9 August 2016.

The ABS has a long and proud history of Census taking in Australia, and the 2016 Census will be the seventeenth national Census of Population and Housing. The Census is the largest collection the ABS conducts, and one of the most important.

The 2016 Census will introduce significant changes to the way the Census is conducted, with a move to a digital-first approach. Australia's first predominantly digital Census will be faster, more efficient and easier for the public.

The topics covered in the Census will remain stable in 2016, repeating those included in 2006 and 2011. The ABS will continue to look for opportunities to integrate Census data with other datasets to increase the range of insights provided and ensure the Census delivers maximum benefit to governments and the community.

The first data from the Census will be published in 2017. For information on all data published by the ABS, users should refer to the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

David W. Kalisch
Australian Statistician

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Australia's seventeenth national Census of Population and Housing will be held on Tuesday, 9 August 2016. The first Census was held in 1911 and since 1961 they have been conducted every five years.

By counting the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census Night, the Census provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of the states, territories and local government areas, for use in:

- determining the number of seats allocated to each state in the House of Representatives
- distributing billions of dollars of annual goods and services tax revenue to the states and territories
- determining state grants to local government areas.

These important uses are only part of the role of the Census. As well as key demographic characteristics such as age and sex, the Census collects information about the housing of people in Australia, and on other topics such as education, participation in the labour force, occupations and industries, marital status and family size. The range of topics included means that any particular topic can be examined in conjunction with other related topics. While some of the Census topics are covered by other sources, only the Census can currently provide information on a standard basis for the country as a whole as well as for small geographic areas and small population groups.

The Census helps Australians understand who we are, where we live and how we are changing. The Census in 2011 showed how culturally diverse Australia is, with over a quarter (26%) of Australia's population born overseas and a further one-fifth with at least one overseas-born parent. In 2011, Australia's population identified as having come from over 300 different ancestries. The 2011 Census also showed that more than two out of every five people aged 5 years and over had changed their residence since the 2006 Census (approximately 7.9 million people), with just over half a million people moving to a coastal centre.

The Census provides a comprehensive picture of Australians, at the national or state and territory level, and for a range of smaller geographic units including local government areas. This supports the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments and other users.

GOALS FOR THE 2016 CENSUS

The ABS has four goals for the 2016 Census. These are to:

- count every dwelling and person in Australia
- maximise the value of the Census to all users
- protect the privacy of the public
- increase the efficiency and sustainability of the Census.

2016: THE CENSUS GOES DIGITAL

The traditional approach to the Census involved the mobilisation of an increasing number of collectors across the country to deliver and collect forms from every dwelling. With 45,000 temporary employees in 2011, the Census has been characterised as Australia's largest peacetime operation. However, there are increasing difficulties in conducting the Census in this way. Recruiting the large number of staff required for the short-term field operation has become more difficult; and staff costs have escalated. In addition, collectors have had decreasing success in contacting people at their homes, perhaps reflecting the decline in the average number of people in each household, the larger proportion of the population that is in the workforce, and their more diverse working hours. Some dwelling types such as secure apartment buildings are particularly problematic for the delivery and collection of paper forms. In contrast, people increasingly have the capability and willingness to interact with Government electronically, using their mobile devices, tablets, laptops, or desktop computers.

A new approach to the Census has therefore been developed, with the aim of taking advantage of technology and maintaining coverage while reducing costs.

In August 2016, most households in Australia will receive a letter giving them a unique login number and instructions on how to complete the Census online. This is part of a new 'digital-first' approach for the 2016 Census. This approach has been made possible by the development of a national address register, that will act as a frame for the Census and other statistical collections, and is central to the new delivery procedures for the Census. Paper forms will still be made available to households that need them, and households will then mail the completed form back in pre-paid envelopes.

In some areas of Australia, including more rural areas and areas where a greater need for paper forms is

expected, paper forms will be hand delivered, along with a unique login number.

About two-thirds of Australians are expected to respond online in 2016, doubling the online response rate of 33% in 2011. This would position Australia as one of the world leaders in online Census response and could be described as one of Australia's most significant online events in history.

A significant temporary workforce will still be employed to visit all dwellings that have not completed a Census form. As in previous Censuses this workforce will provide support and ensure participation of the full population.

This new approach will be over \$100 million cheaper than the traditional approach would have been, reducing the cost to taxpayers.

CONTINUATION OF EXISTING TOPICS

The Australian Census continues to be one of the most comprehensive Censuses conducted anywhere in the world, with a long list of person and dwelling topics. A rigorous review and public consultation process of Census topics conducted by the ABS after the 2011 Census confirmed that there is strong support for each of the existing Census topics.

The consultation process also identified areas where there is an emerging need for new information. However, the addition of new topics to the Census would come with a considerable cost and burden on households, and at the expense of other data collected.

Consequently, the 2016 Census will continue to collect high quality information across the same comprehensive set of Census topics included in the past two Censuses.

The topics have been approved by the Australian Government and are described in detail elsewhere in this publication.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The ABS has conducted a number of activities to provide assurance regarding the 2016 Census direction and the organisation's preparedness for this Census. An international peer review by experts from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Canada, endorsed the new approach to the Census and their feedback has helped to refine planning. Testing of the approach has included annual Census Field Tests starting in 2012, conducted in various areas of Australia, which trialled a range of aspects of the delivery and collection model. There has also been cognitive testing which helped develop Census forms and other materials, and testing of the usability of the online form on various devices.

CENSUS TIME CAPSULE

In 2016, people will again have the option to have their personally-identified Census responses held securely by the National Archives of Australia for 99 years before being released for use by future generations of family historians and other researchers. For privacy reasons, the personally-identified Census information held by the National Archives of Australia, will not be available for any purpose (including to courts and tribunals) within the 99 year closed access period. The Census form includes an optional question asking whether each person in the household agrees to have their information retained in this way. The majority of the Australian population choose to have their information added to the Time Capsule and the proportion has increased every Census since its introduction in the 2001 Census. For more information on this initiative, see the Census Time Capsule section in this publication.

WHAT'S NEXT

Census testing will continue in 2015 on a number of fronts including refining the format of the online form; ensuring that the online form is useable on a very wide range of device sizes and types; and ensuring that the Census materials delivered to households encourage a predominantly online response.

Information on the proposed data products and services to be made available from the 2016 Census will be published on the ABS website later in 2015. *How Australia Takes a Census* (cat. no. 2903.0) will be published closer to the Census date. It will provide detailed information about the upcoming Census.

DIGITAL-FIRST CENSUS AND THE ABS TRANSFORMATION

The ABS has commenced a five year program to modernise infrastructure, systems and processes used to produce critical statistics. This investment will help maintain the integrity of core ABS services, and ensure the ABS is well positioned to meet the information needs of today's dynamic economy and changing society.

The 2016 digital-first Census will be a launching pad for a transformation in the way the ABS collects and provides access to data about Australia's population into the future. The ABS aims to move to a more integrated approach with the continuous collection and compilation of data from both existing data sets and through a single, combined household survey program. These changes will be enabled by the knowledge within the Census program, and the establishment of a robust and high quality address register. The address register will provide the sampling frame for ABS household surveys and support higher quality data linkages.

The digital-first Census will improve and expand the information available to Australians, through integration of 2016 Census data with previous Censuses and other datasets and through the application of statistical methods to provide modelled estimates and area indexes.

Collection operations

COLLECTION OPERATIONS

The objective of collection operations is to conduct a high quality Census in a timely and cost-efficient manner. This includes recruitment, training, supervision and payment of a large temporary field force.

The ABS has developed a new digital-first approach to Australia's 2016 Census that will provide a faster, more efficient, more environmentally-friendly Census that is easier for people to complete. The new approach will overcome difficulties in recruiting field staff and at the same time take advantage of new technologies.

NEW APPROACH

The new approach changes the way Census materials are delivered and information is returned by the public. These changes were designed taking into account international best practices in Census taking and build on the Australian public's increasing access to and use of the internet, and their willing support of the Census.

Under the traditional Census method used for the past 100 years, forms were delivered by hand to every household. The new delivery approach removes the need for Census Field Officers to visit every dwelling. Instead, approximately 80% of dwellings across Australia will, in the first instance, be mailed information which includes a unique login number for the online form. The online form is designed to be used easily and securely on a variety of devices from smart phones to desktop computers. Those residents who do not wish to complete their form online will be able to request a paper form, which they can complete and mail back in a provided prepaid envelope.

For households that have not yet responded, reminder letters will follow the initial correspondence. Census Field Officers will then only visit dwellings that have not participated.

In the remaining areas of Australia, a more traditional delivery approach will be used. In these areas, Census Field Officers will deliver materials to each dwelling, enabling residents to either complete their form online or mail back a paper form. In these areas, the Field Officers will attempt to make contact with residents when dropping off the form. Census Field Officers will then only make further visits to dwellings that have not participated.

In 2016 the paper forms will have a new look, encouraging people who receive them to go online, if they are able. The front page of the paper 2016 Household Form is reproduced below.

There will also be some tailoring of the standard mail-out or traditional procedures to better meet the needs of particular areas, based on demographics, location, internet connectivity and the experience of previous Censuses. The enumeration operation will be monitored on a real-time basis, with management information coming from Census Field Officers using handheld devices, call centre agents receiving public enquiries and forms received on paper and online. This information will be used to highlight areas of lower response, or any other issue, so that alternative strategies can be enacted quickly to respond to these problems as they arise.

It is expected that about two-thirds of Australians will respond online to the 2016 Census, doubling the online response rate in 2011 of 33%.

ADDRESS REGISTER

Central to the new delivery procedures is the ABS Address Register. The ABS has developed this register as the central source of addresses used in the collection of information. The main input to the register is the Geocoded National Address File (G-NAF), with continuing supplementation from other available address sources and from

field work undertaken by ABS officers. Each unit listed on G-NAF has:

- an address
- geocode information (latitude and longitude coordinates)
- land use details.

Residential addresses from the register will be used for the mail-out of unique login numbers and other correspondence. They will also be provided to Census Field Officers to allow them to follow up dwellings that have not returned a form. In areas where the register is considered to be of poor quality, necessitating delivery of Census materials by Census Field Officers, the officers will record the addresses of the dwellings they visit, for inclusion in the register.

All addresses provided during the Census, including those provided on Census forms and those recorded by Census Field Officers, may be used to validate the quality and coverage of the register. This will maintain it as a comprehensive listing of residential and business addresses in Australia.

SCOPE OF THE CENSUS

The scope of the Census is all people in Australia on Census Night, excluding foreign diplomats and their families. Visitors to Australia are counted regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay. Australian residents out of the country on Census Night are out of the scope of the Census.

It is expected that in 2016, for the first time, people in Norfolk Island on Census Night will be included in the Australian Census, following passage of the *Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act 2015*. The Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island will again be included in the 2016 Census. Following the enactment of the *Territories Law Reform Act 1992*, the results for these Territories were included in the counts for Australia for the first time in 1996.

People will be counted where they are on Census Night. This Census count is referred to as one conducted on an actual location or place of enumeration basis (often referred to as a *de facto* Census). Census counts will also be available on a place of usual residence basis.

VARIED ENUMERATION STRATEGIES

The ABS uses a range of approaches for specific population groups to ensure the coverage of people in Australia is as complete as possible. These strategies are designed, in consultation and collaboration with the relevant communities and/or service providers, to ensure these groups participate in the Census and accurate information is collected. Some examples of population groups where such targeted approaches have been used to optimise accessibility and inclusion are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- people with disabilities
- people experiencing homelessness
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- people travelling or away from their home on Census Night
- people living in mining camps and fly-in/fly-out workers.

A range of approaches have been used in previous Censuses, for information on the approach taken in the 2011 Census, see 2011 Census Special Enumeration Strategies (cat. no. 2911.0.55.004). For the 2016 Census, the ABS will build on the success of the 2011 strategies. The targeted approaches and associated procedures used in 2011 are being reviewed and revised, to take into account the new Census enumeration model.

SPECIAL DWELLINGS

A number of approaches will be in place to ensure people in certain kinds of dwelling are included in the Census. These are dwellings that may be difficult to access, or which offer transient accommodation, with the result that the occupants are harder to contact and less likely to complete the Census.

People who are in a non-private dwelling, such as a hotel or hospital, on Census Night, are given a Census Personal Form by staff of the establishment who have been recruited as Special Field Officers.

People who live in a private dwelling that is clustered with other private dwellings in an establishment or in a particular location, for example, in a secure apartment building, caravan park, marina or manufactured home estate, complete Census Household Forms as do other households in private dwellings. For these types of dwelling, it is anticipated that the Census materials will generally be dropped off by Census Field officers rather

than mailed out.

People in special dwellings will also be able to complete the Census online.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The ABS is highly conscious of the contribution that public cooperation and willing participation make to the Census. In turn, the ABS seeks to respect this contribution by returning the data we produce in easy to use and accessible forms. In 2016, a key aim will be to maintain existing high levels of goodwill and participation with the move to the digital-first Census. In order to minimise the cost to the taxpayer and reduce the number of interactions that households need to have with the ABS, we aim to encourage households to self-respond to the Census in a timely fashion after receiving their letter, in order to remove the need for a household visit.

A major national public awareness and education campaign will be implemented in the lead up to, during and after Census night. The campaign will educate the public on the value and usefulness of the information collected and the confidentiality of the information provided, as well as raise awareness of how and when to complete the Census.

Particular attention will be paid to communicating with groups identified as having barriers to participation. These include young people, the rural community, people with a disability, and those for whom English is not a convenient language in which to receive information. Communication materials will reflect the diverse range and needs of Australians and international visitors, by realistically portraying their interests, lifestyles and contributions to Australian society.

Assistance will also be available where it is needed most, including the operation of a telephone and online inquiry service, self-help facilities and other mechanisms of supported participation. These services will include facilities for people who are blind or vision impaired, deaf people or people with other physical or cognitive disabilities.

NON COOPERATION

It is expected that the public awareness campaign on the nature of the Census, the assurances of confidentiality and the uses of the resulting statistics will ensure maximum cooperation. Action, including legal action, will be considered only where all possible measures to ensure completion of a Census form have failed.

FRONT PAGE OF PAPER 2016 CENSUS HOUSEHOLD FORM

A Data Capture Centre (DCC) will be established to capture and process the data from the paper forms. Data will be captured and processed using the same technologies as in 2011, namely imaging and Intelligent Character Recognition for paper forms, and an online instrument for electronic collection. Once captured and loaded onto secure ABS systems, responses are then coded using automatic and computer assisted coding techniques.

Processing of data will proceed as follows:

Receipt and registration of forms: Upon arrival at the DCC, Census forms will have their Form ID electronically captured. This information will be immediately communicated to Field Staff to eliminate contact with people once their forms are submitted and received. Follow-up of missing forms will be rigorous to ensure coverage is complete.

Data capture: Forms will be scanned and a reconciliation process conducted to ensure that all forms which have been received at the DCC have been captured.

Coding: All responses on the Census form are coded from indexes. Coding techniques include automatic, computer assisted and manual coding.

Imputation: Imputation is the process whereby information for a small number of non-responding dwellings is included in the Census dataset based on credible source information. Improvements have been made to the accuracy of the imputation methodology for missing values for sex, age and marital status. These improvements will be made in concert with the need to streamline existing systems and harness different information collected under the new enumeration model.

Editing: Editing is a process that looks to correct errors in the data and will be undertaken as part of the validation strategy to produce a consistent, valid dataset. The kinds of error which editing procedures can detect are limited to responses and/or codes which are invalid, or which are in conflict with Census definitions.

Quality Assurance: A variety of quality assurance measures will be implemented across the various systems and processes throughout the processing cycle. This will provide an accurate, consistent and coherent final Census output file.

Results and output

RESULTS AND OUTPUT

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Feedback on existing Census products and services was invited and received from the public during 2014 and is being considered for 2016 Census output.

Information on proposed 2016 Census data products and services will be published on the ABS website later in 2015.

DATA RELEASE

In recent Censuses, data have been released in multiple stages. It is expected that this will again be the case for the 2016 Census. The composition and timing of each stage will be reviewed in order to improve the value received from the data. A release schedule will be published once the review is complete.

The broad timing of data release will be similar to that for the 2011 Census, with first release planned for mid 2017.

POPULATION MEASURES

The 2016 Census will be conducted on an actual location basis. Standard products from the 2016 Census are expected to be released based on both an actual location basis ('place of enumeration') and on where people usually live ('place of usual residence').

CLASSIFICATIONS

Most classifications used in the 2016 Census will be similar to those used in the 2011 Census. Some of these classifications have been reviewed in the lead up to 2016 and each of these reviews has sought public comment. Full details of all classifications will be included in the *Census Dictionary, Australia, 2016* (cat. no. 2901.0) to be released in May 2016.

EVALUATION OF UNDERCOUNT

An integral step in understanding the quality of the Census count is to evaluate the coverage of the count, and the levels of both under-enumeration and over-enumeration. For this purpose a Post Enumeration Survey will be conducted soon after Census Night.

Further detailed evaluation studies will be conducted to provide users of Census data with information about data quality, and to obtain feedback for improvements for the following Census.

GEOGRAPHIC OUTPUTS

The 2016 Census data will be output using the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), which was introduced with 2011 Census data. The 2016 version of the ASGS is likely to be very similar to the 2011 edition of the ASGS but with minor updates made primarily by splitting existing regions, which enables a high level of comparability between the 2011 and 2016 geographic areas. Information on any ASGS changes will be made available through the ABS Statistical Geography web portal. The Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1), which on average has approximately 400 people or 160 dwellings, will be the smallest geographic region on which Census data will be available. Local Government Area (LGA) data will continue to be available as part of the ASGS into the future.

In 2016, data will not be output for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) as it was for the 2011 Census. In 2011 this was done to assist users in transitioning from the final version of the ASGC to the ASGS.

For further information on ABS Statistical Geography see www.abs.gov.au/geography.

DATA INTEGRATION

Since 2006, the ABS has enhanced the value of Census data through integrating unit record data with other ABS and non-ABS datasets to create new datasets for statistical and research purposes. Data integration will continue to be a central element of the Census and is an increasingly important element of effectively and efficiently delivering the broader ABS work program.

Previous integration initiatives undertaken by the ABS have successfully demonstrated that linking Census data with other datasets provides new insights into areas and groups of interest within Australian society, such as education, migrants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These initiatives have contributed to a richer statistical view of Australian society and an improved evidence base for decision making for the community, researchers and policy makers, in a cost effective way.

The 2011 Census data integration projects have demonstrated the potential of data integration to replace direct collection, to develop new datasets (including longitudinal datasets) and to improve the quality of key estimates derived from administrative sources. These projects included the creation of the Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, the 2011 Census to Vocational Education and Training in Schools dataset, the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACLD) and the Indigenous Mortality Project. The initial release of the ACLD after the 2011 Census followed the journeys of around one million people across the 2006 and 2011 Censuses and created a research tool for exploring how Australian society is changing over time. Following completion of 2016 Census processing, the ACLD will be extended to include the 2016 Census and will offer insights into the dynamics and transitions that drive social and economic change over time, as well as providing insights into how these vary for diverse population groups and geographies.

The integration of 2016 Census data with other datasets will continue the production of new statistical outputs and enduring datasets, whilst keeping the privacy and confidentiality of all Australians at the centre of all stages of the project. All personal information used in the Census and data integration projects is kept secure and confidential, in keeping with legislative requirements and ABS policies. For further information, see the section on Legal authority, confidentiality and privacy.

Topics to be included in the 2016 Census

TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2016 CENSUS

The consultation and review process for the 2016 Census began with the publication in November 2012 of *Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Content and Procedures, 2016* (cat. no. 2007.0) which invited submissions on Census content from organisations and individuals. Information on the types of submissions received has been published in *Census of Population and Housing: Submissions Report, 2016* (cat. no. 2007.0.55.001).

Users of the Census expressed a strong desire to see continuity in the topics maintained, so that social changes can be measured over time. At the same time, the consultation process offered the opportunity to consider new inclusions to meet emerging information needs.

While it is expected that the 2016 Census will be predominantly digital, there will still be a dependence for many on paper forms. As such, the inclusion of additional topics would have an impact on paper form production costs, and increase respondent burden.

After extensive public consultation and a rigorous review of topics, which showed strong support for existing topics, it was decided that the 2016 Census would repeat the topics included in the 2006 and 2011 Censuses.

While the topics are unchanged from 2011, there have been some minor changes to the questions and supporting text used to collect information on the topics. The changes have been implemented to make the form easier to complete and to optimise the quality of the data produced. The changes have been designed based on an evaluation of the results of the 2011 Census, the public consultation process and the 2016 Census testing program.

The criteria for inclusion of topics in the Census are discussed below, followed by the list of topics. Information on each topic can be found in the sections entitled Personal topics and Household and dwelling topics.

The 2016 Census comes at a time when the ABS is transforming its program of population and social statistics. This will see the introduction of a multipurpose social survey with a large rolling sample and the exploration of partnerships to find statistical solutions through enhancing ABS datasets with other datasets. The emerging data needs identified through the 2016 Census topic consultation may be able to be met in the future through one of these approaches

TOPICS INCLUDED TO MEET LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The primary purpose of the Census is to provide a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each of the states, territories and local government areas for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds.

The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* requires the ABS to supply the Electoral Commissioner with the population statistics that are needed for the regular review of the number of seats each state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives. To meet this regulation the Statistician is required to provide population data for each of the states and territories.

The *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* requires the Statistician to determine the population of each state and territory each year. This data is used with factors calculated by the Commonwealth Grants Commission to determine the distribution of goods and services tax (GST) revenue to states and territories. The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* also requires the Statistician to provide estimates of the population of each state and territory which the State and Northern Territory Grants Commissions use with Census-based population estimates and other data at the level of individual local government areas to determine the distribution of grants to local councils.

The population estimates are based on the five-yearly Census and are calculated by adjusting the Census count for underenumeration, excluding visitors from overseas and adding in Australian residents who are overseas at the time of the Census. The population estimates are updated quarterly for state and territory series, and annually for other series, using a combination of other data sources and demographic techniques which have at their base Census data on the following topics:

- Sex
- Age
- Registered marital status
- Indigenous status
- Usual residence at Census time
- Internal migration.

OTHER TOPICS

As the Census covers all households, it gathers information about the characteristics of the population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small population groups to support the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments and other users.

For example, in its role in determining the distribution of GST revenue, the Commonwealth Grants Commission does not just use population estimates based on Census data, as described above, but also uses data from a

wide range of other Census topics to assess state relativities of 'needs'. In this respect, the Commission is just one of numerous clients, from both the public and private sectors, who make use of a range of Census data to assist in making decisions affecting the allocation of substantial resources.

The Census in Australia is completed by the householder with little assistance. This limits the nature of the topics which can be covered and the questions which can be asked. Topics which require complex questions or question sequencing may result in unreliable responses and thus are not suitable for inclusion in a Census. As with questions which are complex, the sheer length of a form can impose a burden on the public, and impact on people's willingness to complete it and the reliability of responses. This limits the total number of topics that can be included in the Census.

Given these considerations, the following criteria are used to judge the suitability of topics to be included in a Census. These are:

- The topic is of current national importance.
- There is a current need for data on the topic for small population groups and/or at the small area level.
- There are no other suitable alternative data sources available for the topic.
- The topic is suitable for inclusion in the Census.
- There is likely to be a continuing need for data on the topic in the following Census.

THE TOPIC IS OF CURRENT NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Topics which are selected for inclusion in a Census must relate to an issue that is of current national importance. There must be a demonstrated need for the Census data for policy development, planning and program monitoring, or for the provision of data on this topic as an electoral or legislative requirement.

THERE IS A CURRENT NEED FOR DATA ON THE TOPIC FOR SMALL POPULATION GROUPS AND/OR AT THE SMALL AREA LEVEL

As the Census covers all households, it can produce information at the small geographic area level or about small population groups, and enables cross-classification with other characteristics collected in the Census. Information not required at this level may be more efficiently obtained from sample surveys.

THERE ARE NO OTHER SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE DATA SOURCES AVAILABLE

In determining topics to be included in a Census, consideration is also given to whether data are available from other sources. For example, similar or surrogate data may be collected by another organisation, there may have been surveys already conducted by the ABS, or the data may be available from administrative records.

The ABS produces an extensive range of information from economic censuses and surveys, administrative sources, and a comprehensive program of household surveys. While ABS household surveys are not able to collect the detailed information that can be obtained from the Census for small groups or small areas, there are other advantages associated with interviewers collecting the data rather than the self-enumeration method used in the Census.

THE TOPIC IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE CENSUS

In the Census information is collected by 'self-enumeration', with each household required to fill in a Census form. Self-enumeration, and the need to ensure that the large Census operation is conducted as efficiently and effectively as possible, impose certain constraints on the type of topics included. Questions asked on the Census form need to be readily understood by all householders. The Census form may be completed by one household member on behalf of others.

Topics that require detailed explanation to ensure accurate answers are unlikely to be answered correctly. Research has shown that people often do not read the explanations that accompany questions. Questions that are controversial or could cause adverse reactions may also not be answered correctly. Such questions could also adversely affect the quality of other responses. Information about these topics may require interviewer-based collection methods.

THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A CONTINUING NEED FOR DATA ON THE TOPIC IN THE FOLLOWING CENSUS

The need for time-series data has traditionally been an implicit component of the selection criteria. There should be an appropriate balance between the two needs of relevance and time-series. If both are considered to be fulfilled (i.e. the topic is currently relevant and likely to remain relevant for future censuses) then there will be a good case for retaining or including the topic. However, if one of these is not assessed as being fulfilled (i.e.

while there is comparable time series data from previous censuses the topic is no longer relevant in modern society, or while the topic is very relevant at the time of one Census it is unlikely to remain relevant in the future) the topic is unlikely to be recommended.

TOPICS FOR THE 2016 CENSUS

As outlined in the Introduction, the 2016 Census will include the same topics as in the 2011 Census. Minor changes to questions have been made as appropriate to ensure continuing relevance, such as updating income ranges and revising some response categories, or to improve data quality.

Information on each of the topics below is included under the Personal Topics or Household and Dwelling Topics sections of this publication.

The 2016 Census will include a question asking whether people agree to have their information retained by the National Archives of Australia as part of the Census Time Capsule. This question is not related to a Census topic as such and was made possible by an amendment to the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. Information on this initiative is included in the Census Time Capsule section at the end of this publication.

TOPICS RELATING TO PERSONS

Name
Sex
Age
Residential status in non-private dwelling
Registered marital status
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin
Usual residence at Census time
Internal migration
Australian citizenship
Country of birth
Year of arrival in Australia
Country of birth of parents
Main language other than English spoken at home
Proficiency in spoken English
Ancestry
Religious affiliation
Need for assistance
Attendance at an educational institution
Highest year of schooling completed
Non-school qualifications
Number of children ever born
Income (individual)
Labour force status
Status in employment (now incorporates Employment type)
Occupation
Public or Private employer indicator
Workplace address (and Journey to work)
Industry of employment
Hours worked
Method of travel to work
Unpaid work

TOPICS RELATING TO HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLINGS

Address on Census Night
Family relationship (and Social marital status)
Income (family and household income)
Number of motor vehicles garaged
Number of bedrooms
Tenure type
Landlord type (formerly named Rent/landlord type)
Housing costs (formerly named Mortgage repayments)
Dwelling internet connection
Dwelling structure
Location of private dwelling
Type of non-private dwelling

Personal topics

PERSONAL TOPICS

Summary information on each Census Topic that relates to individuals (as opposed to households, families or dwellings) can be found in this section.

Each topic has its own page. Each of these pages includes

- a brief description,
- an indication of the history of the topic in the Census, and
- a reproduction of the questions related to the topic, as they will appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper form, or the 2016 Census Personal Form if they are included only on the personal form.

Some pages also include

- a comment, highlighting some aspect of the topic not covered by the parts above. These comments cover various types of information, such as interpretation of the data.

QUESTION IMAGES

Referring to the images of the questions, it should be noted that the questions will look superficially different on the online form, although the same question is used. This is because of interactive elements in the online form, such as the insertion of the name of the person the question refers to into the question itself, or the fact that the online form runs through all questions for each person in turn.

In addition, the online form includes some targeted supplementary questions designed to improve the accuracy of answers to questions on occupation and industry of employment. Images of these supplementary questions are not included in this publication.

Another difference is that the online form begins with a question about the number of people in the dwelling on Census Night, and the number of people away from it. This question is included to assist in customising the online form for each household.

Name

NAME

This topic records the name of each person present in the dwelling on Census Night and also of usual residents of the dwelling who are absent on Census Night.

The collection of information regarding name is considered essential for the conduct of an accurate and high quality Census. It is used for form management procedures and coding of household composition. Name information is essential for the conduct of a high quality Post Enumeration Survey, which is used to measure the level of under-enumeration in the Census and to estimate the resident population. Name is also used for data integration activities to ensure the highest quality of data linkage.

BACKGROUND

Names have been requested in all previous Censuses.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The strongest possible measures are employed to ensure the security and confidentiality of information provided in the Census. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires that no identifiable information about an individual be made available to any other person, government agency or private organisation.

COMMENT: CONSIDERATION OF RETENTION OF NAME AND ADDRESS INFORMATION

The ABS is currently considering the retention of name and address information for statistical purposes, under

stringent controls. The retention of name and address information would provide a benefit to the ABS and the wider community by enabling higher quality linkage of Census data with other datasets, for approved purposes only. It would also support some improvements in geospatial statistics and the application of geospatial techniques to statistical production, and add value to the ABS Address Register as a comprehensive frame for planning future ABS surveys.

As noted above, under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, retained information that could identify an individual cannot be shared outside the ABS. The ABS will be transparent with its plans to retain or integrate data by publishing information through the ABS website as they are finalised.

QUESTION

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>2 Name of each person including visitors who spent the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2016 in this dwelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all adults, children, babies and visitors present. • Include any person who usually lives in this dwelling who returned on Wednesday, 10 August 2016 without being included on a form elsewhere. • <i>For all other cases of persons away, please include them in Questions 52 and 53 only.</i> 	<p>First or given name</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Surname or family name</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																								

53 For each person away, complete the following questions:		
Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was away on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name	First or given name
	Surname or family name	Surname or family name

Age

AGE

This topic provides the age (in years) of the person on Census night.

Age data is essential for producing estimates of the resident population in each of the states, territories and local government areas, which are required by legislation for electoral purposes and/or the distribution of government funds. Age is essential for most socio-demographic analysis of Census data.

Age is calculated from date of birth when provided, otherwise stated age is used.

BACKGROUND

Age has been included in every Australian Census since 1911. Prior to the 2006 Census, only 'age last birthday' was asked. Since the 2006 Census, date of birth has been asked in conjunction with age last birthday. Date of birth was asked in order to improve the quality of the age data, with age also asked to cover situations where date of birth is not known. Analysis of the results of the 2006 Census indicated that the inclusion of date of birth was very successful in removing the 'age heaping' around reported ages ending in 0 or 5 which is clearly visible in the results of previous Censuses. The inclusion of date of birth has also resulted in the compilation of more accurate statistics on the age of very old Australians who may be residents in aged care facilities or other institutions where the Census form is completed by another person on their behalf.

For the 2016 Census, date of birth will again be asked in conjunction with age. A small enhancement has been made to the question wording to reduce respondent confusion and improve data quality, namely removal of the phrase "last birthday" from the question text.

On the online form, this question includes some quality control measures. Age is automatically calculated from age of birth and warnings generated if the result appears incorrect or unlikely.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form

4 What is the person's date of birth or age? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If date of birth not known, please give age.• Example: Day Month Year 1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8	Day Month Year [][][][][][][][]
OR	OR
Age 4 8 Years	Age [][] Years

Residential status in non-private dwelling

RESIDENTIAL STATUS IN NON-PRIVATE DWELLING

This topic differentiates between people staying in non-private dwellings (either on a short-term basis or as a resident) from live-in staff and their families.

Data from this Census topic contributes to determining estimates of the number of people who are homeless or marginally housed.

BACKGROUND

Information about the residential status of people counted in non-private dwellings has been collected in all Censuses. Until 1996, the information was collected as part of the question about the person's relationship to others in the dwelling.

Since the 2001 Census this information has been collected from a separate question asked of people in non-private dwellings. For 2016, the wording of Question 5 on the Personal form, (which sequences people to or past Question 6 on Residential status in a non-private dwelling), has been revised to improve clarity and sequencing. The layout of Question 6 has also been changed. Previously the response categories were organised under two subheadings, and there was also an 'Other' category under each of these subheadings. However, an evaluation of the 2011 Census indicated some respondents attempted to provide a response under each subheading, even if only one was appropriate.

QUESTION

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Personal Form.

PERSONAL FORM ONLY

5 Is the dwelling in Question 1 a private home?

☐ No ▶ Go to 6

☐ Yes ▶ Go to 7

6 What is the person's residential status in this dwelling?

• For a person staying in accommodation such as a hotel, hostel, boarding house, hospital, nursing home, or staff or student quarters on the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2016, mark **one** of the following.

☐ Guest ▶ Go to 8

☐ Patient ▶ Go to 8

☐ Inmate ▶ Go to 8

☐ Resident ▶ Go to 8

☐ Owner, proprietor or manager ▶ Go to 8

☐ Staff (e.g. porter, cook, teacher, warden) ▶ Go to 8

☐ Family of owner, proprietor, manager or staff ▶ Go to 8

☐ Other ▶ Go to 8

Registered marital status

REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS

Information gathered from this topic records an individual's formal registered marital status.

The Census is the only regular and reliable source of data from which the registered marital status of the Australian resident population can be established and thus determine the rates of marriage and divorce.

BACKGROUND

A question on marital status has been included in all Censuses.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>6 What is the person's present marital status?</p> <p>• 'Married' refers to registered marriages.</p> <p>• Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Never married</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Widowed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Divorced</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Separated but not divorced</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Married</p>
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Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander origin

ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ORIGIN

This topic provides information about each person's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. The main purpose of this question is to determine the number, distribution and characteristics of people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. It is also used in estimation and projections of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population. The Census is the only comprehensive source of small area data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

BACKGROUND

In all Censuses prior to 1971 respondents were asked to state their race and, where race was mixed, to specify the proportions of each. In the 1971 and 1976 Censuses a question with response categories of European, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Other was included. Since 1981, a specific question has been asked to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Since 1976, measures have been adopted to maximise coverage of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. These include specific Census awareness activities, greater use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, greater involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, and better coordination of the related field operations. In remote areas, interview forms have been used to facilitate the enumeration of this population. The ABS has reviewed the approaches and procedures used in 2011 to ensure they are taken into account in the proposed new enumeration model for the 2016 Census.

Since the 2006 Census, a question on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin has also been asked in relation to people who were temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census Night, aimed at improving coverage of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the Census.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

7 Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander
--	---

Usual residence at Census time

USUAL RESIDENCE AT CENSUS TIME

This question collects details of the address where a person usually lives. It may, or may not, be the place where the person stayed on Census Night and completed the Census form. Information from this topic makes it possible to add people away from their usual addresses on Census Night to the population counts for the areas in which they usually reside.

Information on usual residence at Census time is essential for the production of accurate state, territory and local government resident population estimates, a primary objective of the Census. The population estimates are dependent on the five-yearly Census and are calculated by adjusting the Census count for underenumeration, excluding visitors from overseas and adding Australian residents who are overseas at the time of the Census. Information gained through this question also assists with identification of people who are homeless.

Since 2006, place of usual residence has been the primary geographical basis for the release of most Census statistics. Data on a usual residence basis can be output at various geographic levels in addition to those mentioned above, to provide information on areas from small neighbourhoods to greater capital city areas and regions of states and territories. Data can be provided for several types of administrative area, such as Postal areas, Commonwealth and State Electoral Divisions and Natural Resource Management Regions.

Responses collected for the Usual address at Census time question are used in conjunction with responses from other questions to compile internal migration statistics.

BACKGROUND

A question on a person's place of usual residence at Census time was first included in the 1961 Census when people who were temporarily absent from their usual residence were asked to name their state or territory of usual residence (or overseas if appropriate). The topic was not included in 1966 but has been included in all Censuses since 1971.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The strongest possible measures are employed to ensure the security and confidentiality of information provided in the Census. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires that no identifiable information about an individual be made available to any other person, government agency or private organisation.

COMMENT: CONSIDERATION OF RETENTION OF NAME AND ADDRESS INFORMATION

The ABS is currently considering the retention of name and address information for statistical purposes, under stringent controls. The retention of name and address information would provide a benefit to the ABS and the wider community by enabling higher quality linkage of Census data with other datasets, for approved purposes only. It would also support some improvements in geospatial statistics and the application of geospatial techniques to statistical production, and add value to the ABS Address Register as a comprehensive frame for planning future ABS surveys. As noted above, under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, retained information that could identify an individual cannot be shared outside the ABS. The ABS will be transparent with its plans to retain or integrate data by publishing information through the ABS website as they are finalised.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

8 Where does the person usually live? <ul style="list-style-type: none">For persons who usually live in another country and who are visiting Australia for less than one year, mark 'Other country'.For other persons, 'usually live' means the address at which the person has lived, or intends to live, for a total of six months or more in 2016.For persons who have no usual address, write 'NONE' in the 'Suburb/Locality' box.For boarders at boarding school, write the address of the boarding school or college.Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as in Question 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address) Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any) <input type="text"/> Street number <input type="text"/> Street name <input type="text"/> Suburb/Locality <input type="text"/> State/Territory Postcode <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other country
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Internal migration

INTERNAL MIGRATION

Internal migration is the movement of people from one defined area to another within a country.

Data gathered on where the person usually lived one year ago and five years ago is used together with information from Question 8 on usual residence, to study internal migration. Information on internal migration also contributes to the calculation of intercensal and postcensal population estimates.

BACKGROUND

Since 1971 people have been asked to provide the full address of their usual residence five years ago. A question on usual residence one year ago has been included since 1976. In 1991, respondents were asked only for their state of usual residence one year ago and for their full address five years ago. Full address of usual residence for both one year ago and five years ago has been asked since the 1996 Census.

QUESTION

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>9 Where did the person usually live one year ago (at 9 August 2015)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the person is less than one year old, leave blank. For persons who had no usual address on 9 August 2015, write the address at which they were then living. Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as in Question 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address) Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any) <input type="text"/> Street number <input type="text"/> Street name <input type="text"/> Suburb/Locality <input type="text"/> State/Territory Postcode <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other country
<p>10 Where did the person usually live five years ago (at 9 August 2011)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the person is less than five years old, leave blank. For persons who had no usual address on 9 August 2011, write the address at which they were then living. Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as in Question 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Same as in Question 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address) Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any) <input type="text"/> Street number <input type="text"/> Street name <input type="text"/> Suburb/Locality <input type="text"/> State/Territory Postcode <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other country

Australian citizenship

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

This topic provides information about whether people are Australian citizens or not. Information about Australian citizenship is used to monitor the take-up of Australian citizenship by the overseas-born population.

BACKGROUND

A question on nationality was first asked in 1921, when respondents were asked to indicate what 'national subject' they were by means of birthplace, parentage or naturalisation. In 1966 and 1971 the term 'nationality or citizenship' was used, and from 1976 onwards the question has used the word 'citizenship'. Since 1986, the question on citizenship has had only two response categories (Australian citizen or not).

It was proposed that the question on Australian citizenship be excluded from the 2006 Census and included again in the 2011 Census. After consultation with key users of the data, a decision was made to retain the question for the 2006 Census. The question was included in the 2006 and 2011 Censuses and will again be asked in the 2016 Census.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Paper Form.

<p>11 Is the person an Australian citizen?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Australian citizen <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Country of birth

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Information on the countries of birth of people in Australia makes it possible to use Census data to examine the characteristics of first generation Australians. The inclusion of the country of birth topic in the Census enables the ABS to maintain the accuracy of the Estimated Resident Population by Birthplace series. Information on country of birth is critical in targeting assistance to migrants.

BACKGROUND

A question on a person's country of birth has been included in every Australian Census. Before the 1981 Census, with the exception of the 1921 Census, respondents were asked to provide details of the state or territory of birth if born in Australia, or country of birth if born overseas. In 1921 and in Censuses since 1981, state or territory details have not been required.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

12 In which country was the person born? • Remember to mark the box like this: <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Australia ► Go to 14
	<input type="checkbox"/> England
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand
	<input type="checkbox"/> India
	<input type="checkbox"/> Italy
	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam
	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippines
	Other (please specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

The list of response categories for this question reflects those countries which were reported most often in the previous Census.

Year of arrival in Australia

YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

This topic provides information on the years of residence in Australia of people born overseas. The year of arrival question asks overseas-born people to supply the year they arrived in Australia with the intention of staying for at least one year.

Data on overseas-born people's years of residence in Australia, when cross-classified with other Census data, are used to analyse changes over time in the characteristics of migrants to Australia. The question also makes it possible to examine the characteristics of migrants, and their geographic settlement patterns, by the number of years since they arrived in Australia.

BACKGROUND

All Australian Censuses since 1911 have contained one of these two questions; the date of first arrival in Australia or the number of full years of residence in Australia. Since the 2001 Census the question has asked overseas-born respondents to write in the year they arrived in Australia, thereby providing more detailed information than in previous Censuses.

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>13 In what year did the person first arrive in Australia to live here for one year or more?</p> <p>• For example, for arrival in 1987 write: <input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="9"/> <input type="text" value="8"/> <input type="text" value="7"/></p>	<p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will be in Australia less than one year</p>
--	---

Country of birth of parents

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARENTS

This topic provides information about the birthplace of a person's father and mother. Data on ethnic or cultural origin is in high demand, and this information is particularly important in regards to population groups which are unable to be identified through the other Census questions relating to cultural diversity. Information gained from this question, together with the question on country of birth of person, allows the study of first generation and second generation Australian people.

BACKGROUND

A question on the country of birth of parents was first asked in 1921 and the data was used to investigate the extent of the relationship between the birthplace and race of persons born in Asia who were resident in Australia. A question on country of birth of parents was not asked again until 1971 and has been asked in all subsequent Australian Censuses. Until 2001 the question asked people to write in their parents' birthplaces. As the 2001 Census included a question on a person's ancestry, the country of birth of parents question response categories were changed to ask simply whether a person's parents were born in Australia or overseas rather than collect detail on the parents' overseas birthplaces.

An Ancestry Consultative Committee was established in June 2003 to review the questions on ancestry and country of birth of parents for the 2006 Census. The outcome was a recommendation that these questions be asked in a format similar to that used for the 2001 Census. These questions were asked in the same format for the 2011 Census.

For the 2016 Census, the questions on country of birth of parents have been amended to allow respondents to provide details of the country of birth of parents where it is not Australia, rather than having a generic 'overseas' category. This change is as a result of consultation with key users of the data during the 2016 Census topic review.

QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>14 In which country was the person's father born?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Australia</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																														
<p>15 In which country was the person's mother born?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Australia</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																														

Main language other than English spoken at home

MAIN LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME

This topic provides information about the main language other than English spoken at home, if any. Information on language use is important for a wide range of policies at the national, state and territory, and local levels.

BACKGROUND

A question on language was first included in 1921, and asked whether the person could read and write. In 1933, the question asked whether a person could read and write in a foreign language if they were unable to read and write English. A question on language was not included again until the 1976 Census, when a question was included on all languages regularly used. In 1981 a double-barrelled question was included, the first part of which was about whether the person spoke a language other than English at home. If the person answered yes, he or she was sequenced to the second part of the question asking about proficiency in spoken English. In every Census since 1986 a question on language spoken at home has been included, with those who answered yes sequenced to a separate question on proficiency in spoken English. From 1991, a list of response options has been provided for the question, reflecting the most common languages reported in the previous Census. Respondents are able to provide their language in a text box if it is not included in the list of response categories.

Despite not being one of the most commonly reported languages in the preceding Census, Mandarin was included in the list of response options until the 2006 Census to cover the main Chinese dialects, and to minimise the possibility of people who speak the Mandarin language opting for Cantonese in the belief that it was the only Chinese dialect available. For the 2016 Census, Mandarin will again be included in the list due to the frequency of responses in the 2011 Census.

In the lead-up to the 2006 Census, the ABS considered changing the language question to collect data on English and Other only, with Other being unspecified. An investigation on the modelling of language data was undertaken, using responses from related ethnicity questions from both the 1996 and 2001 Censuses. The results showed sufficient quality outcomes for a range of languages at the Statistical Local Area level. However, the investigation also showed that some areas of the Language Classification would experience high levels of either over, or under, estimation of populations if modelling was relied upon for the derivation of language data. This was especially true for Indigenous languages. Consequently, the format of the 2001 Census question has been retained in subsequent Censuses.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

16 Does the person speak a language other than English at home? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark one box only.• If more than one language other than English, write the one that is spoken most often.• Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> No, English only ► Go to 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Mandarin <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Italian <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Cantonese <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Greek <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Vietnamese Yes, other (please specify) <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>																														

Ancestry

ANCESTRY

This topic provides a self-assessed measure of ethnic origin or cultural group affiliation. A person's ancestry, in conjunction with their country of birth and information on birthplace of parents, assists in indicating ethnic origin or cultural group affiliations of first and second generation Australians. Used in conjunction with other indicators of cultural and linguistic diversity the Ancestry topic can help inform the delivery of services and programs to particular ethnic communities. Up to two ancestries can be provided on the Census form.

BACKGROUND

A question on each person's ancestry (i.e. ethnic origin or cultural group), was asked for the first time in the 1986 Census. The question was designed to identify the respondent's ethnic origin (an ancestry concept) rather than a self-identification approach. The aim of the question was to measure the ethnic composition of the population as a whole. Evaluations showed that there was a level of subjectivity about how people interpreted and responded to the question. Little use was made of the ancestry data from the 1986 Census, and there was no question on ancestry in either the 1991 or 1996 Censuses.

As a result of user demand, the ABS established a Census Consultative Group on Ancestry in 1995 to seek input to identify user requirements for this data, research international practices and develop questions that produced more accurate data at reasonable cost. The Consultative Group identified that there were major policy issues for those people who either were born overseas or who were Australian born to parents who were born overseas. For this reason it was determined an Ancestry question in combination with a question on whether the person's parents were born in Australia or overseas would produce data of acceptable quality.

A question on ancestry has been included in each Australian Census since 2001. An Ancestry Consultative Committee was again established in June 2003 to review the questions on ancestry and country of birth of parents for the 2006 Census. An outcome from the review recommended that these questions be asked in a similar format to that used in the 2001 Census. This format was retained for the 2006 and 2011 Censuses.


During the 2016 Census consultation period, the Ancestry topic was reviewed again in the context of demand for more detailed information on country of birth of parents. User feedback indicated support for the collection of this topic on a five yearly cycle. This question will be asked again in the 2016 Census but with a changed layout which will provide two distinct areas in which people can write in an ancestry that is not one of the pick box ancestries. This change is to clarify responses and improve autocoding rates. When writing more than one ancestry in a single area, people tended to add marks such as backslashes or hyphens between them, which made the entries fail autocoding and left their intended answer unclear.

The value of this data will be enhanced through the concurrent collection of detailed country of birth of parents information in the 2016 Census.

As in 2006 and 2011, responses to this question for the 2016 Census will be coded to the 2005-06 edition of *Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG)* (cat. no. 1249.0).

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

18 What is the person's ancestry? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide up to two ancestries only.• Examples of 'Other': GREEK, VIETNAMESE, HMONG, KURDISH, MAORI, LEBANESE, AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER.• Remember to mark the box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> <p> Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> English</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Irish</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Scottish</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Italian</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> German</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Chinese</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Australian</div> <div>Other ancestry 1 (please specify)</div> <div><table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>Other ancestry 2 (please specify)</div> <div><table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div>																																																																																

Religious affiliation

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Religion is a basic variable used in socio-demographic research and is a dimension of cultural diversity. Information gathered from this question is used by religious organisations and government agencies to plan activities and community services.

A question on a person's religion has been included in all Australian Censuses. Answering this question has always been optional, as is specified in the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* . Despite the optional nature of the question, approximately 90% of respondents provided an answer in the 2011 Census.

During the 2016 Census topic review process, many submissions recommended changes to the Religious affiliation question due to perceived bias in the question format and consequent potential underestimates of the number of people who stated they had no religion. After user consultation and testing, the ABS has decided to move the No religion response category to be the first response category in the question, so it will be more consistent with other questions and the order of their response categories. This approach is consistent with that of a number of other countries.

19 What is the person's religion?

- Answering this question is **OPTIONAL**.
- Examples of 'Other': LUTHERAN, SALVATION ARMY, JUDAISM, TAOISM, HUMANISM.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ☒

<input type="checkbox"/>	No religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catholic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anglican (Church of England)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Uniting Church
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presbyterian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhism
<input type="checkbox"/>	Islam
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greek Orthodox
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baptist
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hinduism
Other (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

This topic identifies people who, because of a disability, long term health condition or the effects of old age, report a need for assistance in their daily lives with at least one of the core activities of self care, mobility or communication. Data on people who need assistance due to a severe or profound disability is required for developing federal and state government policies and community-based programs, and for program and service delivery funding allocation.

Questions relating to disabilities of respondents were included in the 1911, 1921 and 1933 Censuses. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were deaf, dumb or blind. A more general question on the effect of disabilities was asked in 1976. However, the quality of data obtained from this question was poor and no results were released.

The ABS established a Census Consultative Group on Disability in 1995 to seek user input and to identify user requirements for these data, research international practices and develop and test disability questions which might provide acceptable and accurate data. Disability questions were not included in the 1996 and 2001 Censuses as the questions developed proved unsuitable for a self-enumerated form.


An Advisory Group on Disability was again established in 2003 to develop a suitable question for the 2006 Census and review the concepts these questions were attempting to measure. The Advisory Group agreed that for the 2006 Census the questions on disability should be based around the concept of 'profound or severe core activity limitation' using criteria similar to those applied in the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Testing of the new questions indicated that the data would be of an acceptable quality for use as an indicator of the target population. These changes were retained for subsequent Censuses.

COMMENT

While this topic is based on the criteria used in the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, the population measured is different as a result of the collapsed question format and different collection methodology. On this basis, data for this topic should be taken as an indication of the characteristics of people who report a need for assistance, due to a disability, long-term health condition or old age, not as the total population prevalence of people with a 'profound or severe core activity limitation' as represented in the survey data.

QUESTION

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>20 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, self care activities?</p> <p>• For example: doing everyday activities such as eating, showering, dressing or toileting.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, sometimes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>21 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, body movement activities?</p> <p>• For example: getting out of bed, moving around at home or at places away from home.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, sometimes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>22 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, communication activities?</p> <p>• For example: understanding, or being understood by, others.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, sometimes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>23 What are the reasons for the need for assistance or supervision shown in Questions 20, 21 and 22?</p> <p>• Mark all applicable reasons.</p> <p>• Remember to mark the box like this: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No need for help or supervision</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Short-term health condition (lasting less than six months)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Long-term health condition (lasting six months or more)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disability (lasting six months or more)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Old or young age</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty with English language</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other cause</p>

Attendance at an educational institution

ATTENDANCE AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

This topic provides information about whether the person is attending an educational institution as a full-time or part-time student, and on the type of institution attended. Information from this topic is used for education planning at federal, state and community levels and in decisions on the allocation of funds for schools and for labour market planning.

BACKGROUND

A question covering school attendance has been included in most Australian Censuses and since 1976 the


question has been broadened to cover attendance at school or other institutions. Questions enabling the identification of full-time and part-time students have been included since 1981. Since 1986 questions on the type of educational institution being attended by students have been included which enable comprehensive statistics to be produced on the characteristics of people attending the various types of educational institutions.

Due to structural changes in the higher education system, some changes in terminology were made in 1996 to the question about the type of educational institution. In 1996, Catholic and other non-government primary and secondary schools were also separately identified. These changes have been retained for subsequent Censuses.

A small change was made to a dot point instruction for the 2016 Census to clarify that external and correspondence students should indicate the institution in which they are currently enrolled, regardless of attendance.

QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>24 Is the person attending a school or any other educational institution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include preschool and external or correspondence students. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No ► Go to 26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, full-time student</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, part-time student</p>
<p>25 What type of educational institution is the person attending?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Include secondary colleges and senior high schools under the 'Secondary school' category. • For external or correspondence students, mark the type of institution in which they are enrolled. • Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p> Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Preschool</p> <p>Infants/Primary school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Government</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Catholic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other non-government</p> <p>Secondary school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Government</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Catholic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other non-government</p> <p>Tertiary institution</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Technical or further educational institution (including TAFE Colleges)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> University or other higher educational institution</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other educational institution</p>

Highest year of schooling completed

HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED

This topic records the highest level of primary or secondary school a person has completed. Information on highest year of schooling completed is an important input into determining the level of highest educational attainment. It is also an important indicator of educational need and disadvantage, and is used for planning and profiling at the small area level.

BACKGROUND

A question relating to the level of schooling attained was first asked in 1966 when a question on the highest level of schooling was included. In 1976 the question was changed to ask about the age at which people had left school, to overcome reporting problems which occurred due to the lack of standardisation of schooling across state/territories and also different schooling systems used overseas.

Given that standardised schooling in Australia had been in place for a number of years, a question on highest level of school completed was included in the 2001 Census. The question also included the option of answering 'Still at school'.


The Still at school response category was removed for the 2006 Census to enable level of highest educational attainment (which relies on information about highest year of school completed and highest non-school qualification) to be determined for people still at school. People attending secondary school can be identified by cross-classifying responses from this question with answers from the two questions on attendance at an

educational institution.

For the 2016 Census, there has been a minor change to the dot point instruction to clarify that people attending school at the time of the Census should mark the last year completed rather than the current year of study.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>27 What is the highest year of primary or secondary school the person has <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark one box only.• For people currently at school, mark the highest year of schooling they have completed, not the year they are currently undertaking. <p> Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information about year equivalents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Year 12 or equivalent<input type="checkbox"/> Year 11 or equivalent<input type="checkbox"/> Year 10 or equivalent<input type="checkbox"/> Year 9 or equivalent<input type="checkbox"/> Year 8 or below<input type="checkbox"/> Did not go to school
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Non-school qualifications

NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS

Information collected on this topic provides information about the field and level of study of the person's highest completed non-school qualification. This is an important input into determining the level of highest educational attainment. Data gathered during the Census about non-school qualifications is used to support planning and policy development in the areas of education, training and employment.

BACKGROUND

An education question in which respondents reported their highest level of attainment was included in the 1911 Census. However, a question directly asking about educational qualifications was not included until 1966 when respondents were asked to provide their qualification name and the institution from which it was obtained. Since 1971, people aged 15 years or over have been asked whether they have obtained a non-school qualification and, if so, the level of the highest qualification they have obtained, the field of study and the year in which it was obtained.

Specific year information was collected prior to the 2006 Census, but since that time respondents have been asked to indicate whether their qualification was completed prior to 1998, or from 1998 onwards. These three items enable data on the highest non-school qualification to be coded to a detailed classification incorporating both level and field of study.

Qualifications data collected in both the 1991 and 1996 Censuses was classified to the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)* (cat. no. 1262.0). Following developments in education and training and the introduction of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) (see the *Information Paper Measuring Learning in Australia - A Framework for Education and Training Statistics*, cat. no. 4213.0), the *Australian Standard Classification of Education, (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0) was introduced in 2001. ASCED comprises two components: level of education and field of education. For the 2001 Census, question wording, instructions and examples were modified to accommodate the AQF and the introduction of the ASCED.

For the 2006 Census, the question about the year in which the qualification was completed was reworded to determine if the qualification was obtained before 1998 or from 1998 onward. It was considered that by 1998 the AQF would have been in place long enough to account for a sufficient number of certificates to make this distinction meaningful. The distinction between certificates awarded pre 1998 and from 1998 onwards is also used to assist in coding some qualifications to a finer level of the ASCED classification.

A question asking for the name of the institution at which the person's highest non-school qualification was completed has not been included since the 2006 Census. In previous Censuses, this data was used to assist in coding the person's highest non-school qualification but it has been found that its removal had minimal impact on the quality of the coding.


COMMENTS

Questions on qualifications generally have a relatively high level of non-response. However, analysis shows that non-response to this question is mostly from those without qualifications and therefore the Census data remain

relevant to the users. There are also problems with interpreting level and main field of highest non-school qualification responses, particularly for qualifications gained overseas, qualifications obtained some time ago, and where inadequate descriptions are provided by respondents.

QUESTION

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>28 Has the person <i>completed</i> any educational qualification (including a trade certificate)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark one box only. <p> Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No ► Go to 32</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, still studying for first qualification ► Go to 32</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, trade certificate/apprenticeship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, other qualification</p>																																																		
<p>29 What is the level of the <i>highest</i> qualification the person has <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example: TRADE CERTIFICATE, BACHELOR DEGREE, ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA, CERTIFICATE II, ADVANCED DIPLOMA. 	<p>Level of qualification</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 584 903 757"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																		
<p>30 What is the main field of study for the person's <i>highest</i> qualification <i>completed</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example: PLUMBING, HISTORY, PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHING, HAIRDRESSING, GREENKEEPING. 	<p>Field of study</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 819 903 992"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																		
<p>31 Did the person <i>complete</i> this qualification before 1998?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, before 1998</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, 1998 or later</p>																																																		

Number of children ever born

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN

This topic collects information on the number of babies ever born, in a question directed to females aged 15 years and over.

It provides an additional view on demographic fertility which complements and can help explain information on birth rates compiled from birth registrations. It is also used in formulating assumptions on future fertility trends for use in population projections for Australia and regions within Australia.

Data is not collected for females under 15 years of age because of the very low number of females under 15 years who have given birth.

The conceptual basis for this question will change in 2016 with the removal of the instruction to include live births only.

BACKGROUND

A question on the number of children ever born was included in almost every Australian Census up until and including 1986. It was then decided that information on this topic was not required as frequently as every five years, and the topic was then included at ten yearly intervals, i.e. in the 1996 and 2006 Censuses. However, it was subsequently included in the 2011 Census and will be included in the 2016 Census due to the decisions made to hold topics stable in 2016.

The conceptual basis for this question will change in the 2016 Census following removal of the instruction to include live births only. This instruction was previously included to collect births information according to the United Nations standard. However, evidence of the sensitivities of this instruction, which cannot be overcome effectively in a self-report questionnaire, has led to a decision to remove this instruction in the Census.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>32 For each female, how many babies has she ever given birth to?</p> <p>• Exclude adopted, foster and step children.</p> <p>❗ Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<div><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of babies</div> <div><input type="text"/> None</div>
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Income (individual)

INCOME (INDIVIDUAL)

This topic records the total income from all sources, within ranges, for people aged 15 years and over.

It is used to produce information on family and household income as well as on individual income.

The income ranges used in the question have been reviewed and updated for the 2016 Census.

BACKGROUND

A question on income was first asked in the 1933 Census in an attempt to measure the effects of the Depression. It was reintroduced in 1976 and included in all subsequent Censuses. Each person aged 15 years or older is asked to indicate the range within which their gross income from all sources lies. Statistics on personal, family and household income are produced from this question.

Since 1996, categories for nil and negative income have been provided to overcome an apparent cause of non-response. To ensure that the Nil income category did not lead to biased results, the categories were ordered with the highest income categories listed first. In 2006, ranges were adjusted in line with rises in income since the 2001 Census, the overall number of categories was reduced and an additional range for higher incomes was added. Ranges were reviewed and updated for the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. The number of categories has also been increased for the 2016 Census.

COMMENTS


In the Census, there is a tendency for incomes to be slightly understated. However, the income distribution is largely consistent with that obtained from the ABS income and expenditure surveys.

Testing of the topic has shown that there is some tendency for those not in the labour force to leave this question unanswered, as they consider income only applies to payments received as a result of employment. Similarly, pensioners and self-funded retirees sometimes state that they receive no income as they do not regard their pension as income.

Family and household income are derived from data on individual incomes of members of families and households. Only the incomes of people present on Census Night are included, due to the collection and processing difficulties involved in accounting for people temporarily absent.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>33 What is the <i>total</i> of all income the person usually receives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Do not deduct: tax, superannuation contributions, amounts salary sacrificed, or any other automatic deductions. • Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages and salaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular overtime - Commissions and bonuses Government pensions, benefits and allowances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age pension - Family tax benefit - Parenting payment - Disability support pension - Newstart allowance - Youth and student allowances - Carer allowance - Any other government pension/allowance Profit or loss from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unincorporated business/farm (e.g. sole traders, partnerships) - Rental properties Other income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income from superannuation - Private pensions - Child support - Interest - Dividends from shares - Workers' compensation - Any other income • Information from this question provides an indication of living standards in different areas. <p> Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 or more per week \$156,000 or more per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 - \$2,999 per week \$104,000 - \$155,999 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,750 - \$1,999 per week \$91,000 - \$103,999 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 - \$1,749 per week \$78,000 - \$90,999 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250 - \$1,499 per week \$65,000 - \$77,999 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 - \$1,249 per week \$52,000 - \$64,999 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$800 - \$999 per week \$41,600 - \$51,999 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$650 - \$799 per week \$33,800 - \$41,599 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - \$649 per week \$26,000 - \$33,799 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$400 - \$499 per week \$20,800 - \$25,999 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 - \$399 per week \$15,600 - \$20,799 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 - \$299 per week \$7,800 - \$15,599 per year <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 - \$149 per week \$1 - \$7,799 per year <input type="checkbox"/> Nil income <input type="checkbox"/> Negative income
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Labour force status

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

This topic classifies people aged 15 years and over as being employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, during the week before Census night. Information about the labour force participation levels is essential for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes.

BACKGROUND

Information on labour force status, and status in employment, has been obtained in every Census since 1911. In recent Censuses, respondents were asked to answer a series of questions from which labour force status was derived.

Since the 1996 Census, a question about availability of the person to start work has been included so that counts of unemployed people in the Census are more comparable with data collected in the ABS Monthly Labour Force Survey.

A change has been made to the wording of the initial question for the 2016 Census for simplification and to improve data quality. Specifically, the reference to full-time and part-time working arrangements has been removed from the question itself (previously 'Last week, did the person have a full-time or part-time job of any kind?') and incorporated into the appropriate dot point instruction.

For the 2016 Census, the question about active job seeking has been re-formatted slightly to emphasise and clarify the 'active' component.

QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>34 Last week, did the person have a job of any kind?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark one box only. A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, part-time or full-time work, if it was for one hour or more. Remember to mark the box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, worked for payment or profit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, unpaid work in a family business ► Go to 38</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, other unpaid work ► Go to 46</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not have a job ► Go to 46</p>
<p>35 In the main job held last week, was the person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark one box only. If the person had more than one job last week, then 'main job' refers to the job in which the person usually works the most hours. For all persons conducting their own business, including those with their own incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd) company, as well as sole traders, partnerships and contractors, mark the second box. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Working for an employer? ► Go to 38</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Working in own business? ► Go to 36</p>
<p>36 Was the person's business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark one box only. Incorporated means a limited liability company. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd)?</p>
<p>37 Does the person's business employ people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark one box only. Exclude owner/s of the business. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, no employees (other than owner/s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 1 - 19 employees</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 20 or more employees</p>
<p>46 Did the person actively look for work at any time in the last four weeks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time work means 35 hours or more per week. Examples of actively looking for work include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing, telephoning or applying to an employer for work; having a job interview; checking or registering with an employment agency; taking steps to purchase or start own business; advertising or tendering for work; contacting friends or relatives in order to obtain work. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not look for work ► Go to 48</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked for full-time work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked for part-time work</p>
<p>47 If the person had found a job, could the person have started work last week?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember to mark the box like this: <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, could have started work last week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, already had a job to go to</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, temporarily ill or injured</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, other reason</p>

Status in employment

STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT

This topic provides information about the employment status, in their main job, of people aged 15 years and over who were employed in the week before Census Night. Respondents are asked whether they were an employee, owner manager of an incorporated or unincorporated enterprise (with a breakdown regarding whether the business had employees) or a contributing family worker. Information about status in employment is essential for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes. The information is particularly important for distinguishing between employees and those who are self-employed.

BACKGROUND

Data on status in employment has been obtained in every Census since 1911. Changes were made to the Status in employment question for the 2001 Census to enable more accurate collection of data. These changes included the addition of an explanatory dot point for persons working in their own limited liability company and changes to response categories.

For the 2006 Census, the Status in employment questions were changed to make them more consistent with those used in the Labour Force Survey, and to provide more detail on people working in their own businesses.

Four questions on the Census form feed into this topic. For 2016, Question 37 has been changed so that owner managers are now instructed to exclude themselves from the count of the number of people they employ.

For the 2016 Census, the output classification for this topic and the former Employment type topic have been combined into one: Status in employment. This decision was made following a review of labour statistics standards. This means that Employment type is no longer treated as a separate topic in the Census, but information on Employment type will continue to be collected and released.

QUESTION

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>34 Last week, did the person have a job of any kind?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, part-time or full-time work, if it was for one hour or more. • Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p> Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, worked for payment or profit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, unpaid work in a family business ► Go to 38</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, other unpaid work ► Go to 46</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not have a job ► Go to 46</p>
<p>35 In the main job held last week, was the person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • If the person had more than one job last week, then 'main job' refers to the job in which the person usually works the most hours. • For all persons conducting their own business, including those with their own incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd) company, as well as sole traders, partnerships and contractors, mark the second box. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Working for an employer? ► Go to 38</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Working in own business? ► Go to 36</p>
<p>36 Was the person's business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Incorporated means a limited liability company. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd)?</p>
<p>37 Does the person's business employ people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark one box only. • Exclude owner/s of the business. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, no employees (other than owner/s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 1 - 19 employees</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 20 or more employees</p>

Occupation

OCCUPATION

This topic provides information about the occupation of employed people aged 15 years or over, in the main job they held in the week before Census Night.

Information about occupation is required for a wide range of social and economic policy and planning purposes. Detailed occupation data is needed to analyse current and potential imbalances in the supply and demand for labour with varying skills at the national, regional and local area levels. Occupation data are also used to provide measures of socioeconomic status at the small area level.

Occupation is derived using two questions, asking for occupation title and details of the main tasks performed.

BACKGROUND

A variety of questions on occupation has been included in all previous Censuses. Occupation data were coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) for the first time in 1986. An additional question on the main tasks or duties that a person usually performs in his or her job was included in 1986 to assist in the coding of occupations at the unit group level. For the 1996 and 2001 Censuses, the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0) was used to code occupation data.

For the 2006 Census, occupation data were dual coded using the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0) and also the revised classification *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006* (cat. no. 1220.0). *Australian and New*

Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1 (cat. no. 1220.0) was used to code data from the 2011 Census and *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2* (cat. no. 1220.0) will be used to code data from the 2016 Census.

Minor changes have been made to the dot point instructions for the occupation questions for the 2016 Census in order to update the general examples and also include more specific response examples for the categories of public servants and managers.

A further refinement of this topic for the 2016 Census is the introduction of targeted supplementary questions for those responding on the online form which will clarify responses for occupation and also facilitate more accurate coding to lower levels of the classification. Online respondents will be sequenced to the supplementary questions when they enter a trigger word (e.g. manager).

QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>38 In the main job held last week, what was the person's occupation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give full title. • For example: REGISTERED AGED CARE NURSE, HOUSE CLEANER, RETAIL SALES ASSISTANT, ORE CRUSHING MACHINE OPERATOR. • For public servants, write occupation title and level. For example: CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER APS5. • For armed services personnel, write rank and occupation. 	<p>Occupation</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																																																																				
<p>39 What are the main tasks that the person usually performs in that occupation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give full details. • For example: NURSING THE AGED, CLEANING HOUSES, SELLING CLOTHING IN A DEPARTMENT STORE, OPERATING AN ORE CRUSHER IN A PROCESSING FACILITY. • For managers, write the function managed. For example: MANAGING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, MANAGING A HOTEL, MANAGING HUMAN RESOURCES. 	<p>Tasks or duties</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																																																																				

Public or private employer indicator

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EMPLOYER INDICATOR

This topic classifies employed people aged 15 years and over according to whether they were employed in the public sector (Australian, State/Territory or Local Government) or the private sector, in the main job held in the week before the Census. Information on sector of employer, classified by industry and occupation, is required by labour market economists to analyse changes in the labour force. It is used in the analysis of employment by the various tiers of government as well as non-government organisations.

Data on public or private employer is obtained from the question on the employer's business name.

BACKGROUND

A question on institutional sector has been included in one form or another in every Australian Census. Prior to 2006, this topic was a component of a topic named Institutional Sector. The question has undergone some nomenclature changes over recent Censuses. In 2006 and 2011 it was named Government/Non-Government Employer. For the 2016 Census this topic has been renamed Public or Private Employer Indicator.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>41 For the main job held <i>last week</i>, what was the person's workplace address?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For persons who usually worked from home, write the home address. For persons with no fixed place of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if the person usually travels to a depot to start work, write the depot address; otherwise write 'NONE' in 'Suburb/Locality' box. This information is used to calculate daytime populations and to plan transport activities. <p>i Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<p>Street number <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>Street name <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>Suburb/Locality <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>State/Territory Postcode <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>Property/Building name (if any) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p>
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Industry of employment

INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT

This topic provides information about the industries in which employed people aged 15 years and over worked, in the main job they held in the week before Census Night. Information on the geographic distribution of industries of employment is needed to monitor changes, and provide a basis for social and economic policy and planning.

Information on industry of employment is derived from information provided from three questions; Questions 40, 42 and 43.

BACKGROUND

A topic on the industry of a person's employment has been included in all Censuses. Over time the industry classifications under which the responses are coded have been replaced, and each classification has also been periodically revised.

For the 2016 Census, industry responses will be coded to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 Revision 2.0* (cat. no. 1292.0). This classification was first used with 2006 Census data, replacing the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0) which had been used in 2001. In 2006, dual coding of industry responses was undertaken to both these classifications. Also in 2006, the industry question was reworded to align industry responses more closely with the ANZSIC classification principles.

For the 2011 Census, minor updates were made to response categories for this topic to ensure consistency with categories in the 2006 ANZSIC. The term 'Pubs' was removed from the response category containing Cafes and restaurants and was replaced by the term 'take-aways'. The term take-aways was removed from the Retailing response categories.

Response options for Question 42 ("Which best describes the *industry or business* of the employer at the location where the person works?") were reviewed in the lead-up to the 2016 Census. The categories used previously (Manufacturing; Wholesaling; Retailing; Accommodation; Cafes, restaurants and take-aways; Road freight transport; House construction; Health service, Community care service, and Other) were removed and replaced by an open text box format, and corresponding examples used in the question were updated accordingly.

For the 2016 Census, the format of Question 42 has changed from mark boxes to an open text box; and for the first time targeted supplementary questions have been added to the online form.

A further refinement for the 2016 Census is the introduction of targeted supplementary questions in the online form which will clarify responses for this topic and facilitate more accurate coding to the lower levels of the

classification. When a respondent uses a trigger word (e.g. education) in an answer, they will then be sequenced on to the supplementary questions for that topic.

QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Household Form.

<p>40 For the main job held <i>last week</i>, what was the employer's business name?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For self-employed persons, write the name of the person's business. For teachers, write the name of the school. 	<p>Business name</p> <div></div>
<p>42 What best describes the <i>industry or business</i> of the employer at the location where the person works?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples for industry or business of the employer: SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, GOLD MINING, IT CONSULTING SERVICE, DOMESTIC CLEANING SERVICE, APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION. <p>(i) Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.</p>	<p>Industry/business of the employer</p> <div></div>
<p>43 What are the <i>main goods produced or main services provided</i> by the employer's business?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe as fully as possible, using two words or more. For example: PROVIDING EDUCATION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, MINING GOLD ORE, PROVIDING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVICE, HOUSE CLEANING, CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS. 	<p>Goods produced/services provided</p> <div></div>

Hours worked

HOURS WORKED

This topic records the number of hours worked in all jobs during the week before Census Night, by employed people aged 15 years and over, and is used to derive full-time/part-time status. Information on hours worked, classified by industry and occupation, is required by labour market economists to analyse changes in the labour force within small geographic regions and for small groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, sole parents and specific age groups.

BACKGROUND

A question relating to the number of hours worked by employed people has been asked in each Census since 1966 but has been varied over that time because in some Censuses only the main job was included, and in others all jobs were included. Since the 1996 Census, the question has referred to all jobs rather than being restricted to the main job, providing greater comparability with data from other sources. From the 2001 Census onwards, respondents have been asked to write in the actual number of hours worked in all jobs thereby providing more detailed information.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

44 Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs? Hours worked

• Add any overtime or extra time worked and subtract any time off. None

Method of travel to work

METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK

This topic collects information for up to three methods of travel to work on Census day, and is applicable to employed people aged 15 years and over. The data collected from this topic is widely used at the small area level for transport planning, complementing data collected from the workplace address (journey to work) topic.

BACKGROUND

A question on this topic was asked for the first time in the 1976 Census. It has been repeated in all subsequent Censuses with slight modifications. Since the 2001 Census the response categories of light rail and truck have been added.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

45 How did the person get to work on Tuesday, 9 August 2016? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the person used more than one method of travel to work, mark all methods used.• Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Train<input type="checkbox"/> Bus<input type="checkbox"/> Ferry<input type="checkbox"/> Tram (including light rail)<input type="checkbox"/> Taxi<input type="checkbox"/> Car – as driver<input type="checkbox"/> Car – as passenger<input type="checkbox"/> Truck<input type="checkbox"/> Motorbike or motor scooter<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle<input type="checkbox"/> Walked only<input type="checkbox"/> Worked at home<input type="checkbox"/> Other<input type="checkbox"/> Did not go to work
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Unpaid work

UNPAID WORK

Questions on this topic collect information from people aged 15 years and over on four components of unpaid work: unpaid domestic work; unpaid care of others due to disability or old age; unpaid care of children; and voluntary work. Information on unpaid activities is important in identifying the characteristics of carers for people with special needs (such as the elderly, children and people with disabilities) and assists with planning for both work and non-work environments.

BACKGROUND

Unpaid work was first included as a Census topic in 2006. It had been considered for inclusion in the 2001 Census, but the ABS did not believe there was sufficient justification to modify the labour force questions used in the 1996 Census to include a question on unpaid work. There was concern that modifying the labour force questions would impact on the comparability of the data from previous Censuses and data from the monthly Labour Force Survey.

An Unpaid Work Consultative Committee was established in June 2003 to determine whether there was a need to include a question on unpaid work in the 2006 Census. This committee identified a need at the small area level for information on unpaid work .

Four questions about unpaid work have been included since the 2006 Census:

- unpaid domestic work
- unpaid care of others due to disability, illness or old age
- unpaid care of children
- voluntary work.

A slight alteration has been made to Question 50 for 2016, changing the wording of the two Yes responses to refer to 'own child' rather than 'my child' to avoid ambiguity when the question is being answered in respect of persons 2 or higher on the form.

QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>48 In the last week did the person spend time doing unpaid domestic work for their household?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all housework, food/drink preparation and cleanup, laundry, gardening, home maintenance and repairs, and household shopping and finance management. ❗ Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not do any unpaid domestic work in the last week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, less than 5 hours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 5 to 14 hours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 15 to 29 hours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 30 hours or more</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not do any unpaid domestic work in the last week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, less than 5 hours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 5 to 14 hours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 15 to 29 hours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 30 hours or more</p>
<p>49 In the last two weeks did the person spend time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term health condition or problems related to old age?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipients of Carer allowance or Carer payment should state that they provided unpaid care. • Ad hoc help or assistance, such as shopping, should only be included if the person needs this sort of assistance because of his/her condition. • Do not include work done through a voluntary organisation or group. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not provide unpaid care, help or assistance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, provided unpaid care, help or assistance</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not provide unpaid care, help or assistance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, provided unpaid care, help or assistance</p>
<p>50 In the last two weeks did the person spend time looking after a child, without pay?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only include children who were less than 15 years of age. • Mark all applicable responses. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked after own child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked after a child other than own child</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked after own child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, looked after a child other than own child</p>
<p>51 In the last twelve months did the person spend any time doing voluntary work through an organisation or group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include voluntary work for sporting teams, youth groups, schools or religious organisations. • Exclude work in a family business or paid employment. • Exclude work to qualify for a government benefit or to obtain an educational qualification or due to a community/ court order. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not do voluntary work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, did voluntary work</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, did not do voluntary work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, did voluntary work</p>

Sex

SEX

This topic provides information about the sex of each person enumerated in the Census. This information is essential for the estimation of the resident population in each of the states, territories and local government areas, which is required by legislation for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds. Information on sex is also essential for most socio-demographic analysis of Census data.

BACKGROUND

A question on sex has been included in every Australian Census since 1911.

The 2011 Census included an option, available on enquiry, for people to record their sex on the paper Census form as indeterminate or intersex. In the lead-up to the 2016 Census and in consultation with the Australian Attorney-General's Department who are updating their *Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender*, the ABS is reviewing the Sex Standard, with plans to publish at the end of 2015. Based on the review, the 2016 Census will include an option (on both the paper and online forms) for individuals to identify their sex as other than male or female. The online option was not available in 2011. Details on how to complete these forms will be provided by the Census Inquiry Service on request and promoted through community engagement.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

3 Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person, like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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Proficiency in spoken English

PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

This topic applies only to people who speak a language other than English at home. It provides their own assessment on whether they speak English very well, well, not well or not at all.

Information from this topic is used in conjunction with information from the topic Main language other than English spoken at home, to assist in planning English language services at the local level. Questions on language use are also important for a wide variety of policies over a range of geographic levels.

BACKGROUND

In 1981, a question was asked on proficiency in spoken English for those persons speaking a language other than English at home. A similar question has been asked in each subsequent Australian Census.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2011 Census Household Form.

17 How well does the person speak English? • Remember to mark box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very well <input type="checkbox"/> Well <input type="checkbox"/> Not well <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
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Household and dwelling topics

HOUSEHOLD AND DWELLING TOPICS

Summary information on each Census Topic that relates to households or dwellings (as opposed to individuals) can be found in this section.

Each topic has its own page. Each of these pages includes

- a brief description,
- an indication of the history of the topic in the Census, and
- a reproduction of the questions related to the topic, as they will appear on the paper 2016 Census Household form.

Some pages also include

- a comment, highlighting some aspect of the topic not covered by the parts above. These cover various types of information, such as interpretation of the data.

QUESTION IMAGES

Referring to the images of the questions, it should be noted that the questions will look superficially different on the online form, although the same question is used. This is because of interactive elements of the online form, such as the insertion of the name of the person the question refers to into the question, or the fact that the online form runs through all questions for each person in turn.

Another difference is that the online form also begins with a question about the number of people in the dwelling

on Census Night, and the number of people away from it. This question is included to assist in customising the online form for each household.

Address on Census Night

ADDRESS ON CENSUS NIGHT

The collection of information regarding household address on Census Night is essential for the conduct of an accurate and high quality Census. Household address is the basic unit used to distribute, collect and monitor return of Census forms. Household address is also essential for the conduct of a high quality post-enumeration survey which is used to measure the level of under-enumeration in the Census.

The Address on Census Night topic also forms the basis for geographic coding of Census data based on place of enumeration. Data on households and families is coded to this geography. Data on persons (such as population counts) is also available on a place of enumeration basis. Such person data will show seasonal effects but is preferred for some specific research purposes.

BACKGROUND

Census counts of where people spent Census Night, classified by statistical areas, are available from all Censuses in Australia since 1911. Basic enumerations of the population have been undertaken since the early days of European settlement in Australia.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The strongest possible measures are employed to ensure the security and confidentiality of information provided in the Census. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires that no identifiable information about an individual, such as their address on Census Night, be made available to any other person, government agency or private organisation.

COMMENT: CONSIDERATION OF RETENTION OF NAME AND ADDRESS INFORMATION

The ABS is currently considering the retention of name and address information for statistical purposes, under stringent controls. The retention of name and address information would provide a benefit to the ABS and the wider community by enabling higher quality linkage of Census data with other datasets, for approved purposes only. It would also support some improvements in geospatial statistics and the application of geospatial techniques to statistical production, and add value to the ABS Address Register as a comprehensive frame for planning future ABS surveys.

As noted above, under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, retained information that could identify an individual cannot be shared outside the ABS. The ABS will be transparent with its plans to retain or integrate data by publishing information through the ABS website as they are finalised.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

[illegible]

Family relationship (and Social marital status)

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP (AND SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS)

Collection of data on this topic provides information on family and household relationships for people living in private dwellings. Information gathered from the questions on the relationship of each person to the family or household reference person enables Census data to be output for households and families. Family relationship data is critical in understanding trends in household and family composition and also how changes in the wider Australian society affect families.

Data collected on this topic enables classification of people according to their social marital status, which makes it possible to examine de facto and registered marriage couples in Australia on a comprehensive basis.

BACKGROUND

A question on relationship has been included in every Australian Census.

In the 1986 Census, family coding was undertaken for the first time for people living in caravan parks or on boats in marinas. Previously, these locations were treated as non-private dwellings and each occupant was given a personal form to complete, and at that time no information was collected about their household or family relationships. From the 1996 Census, family coding was undertaken for people living in self-contained units in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates.

Since the 1996 Census, the ABS has output information regarding same-sex couples collected from the relationship question.

Family and household relationship is collected not only in respect of all persons in the dwelling on Census Night (through Question 5) but also in respect of usual residents absent on Census Night (through Questions 52 and 53). This is so that the household from which those people are absent can be correctly classified by household and family composition.

QUESTIONS

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER. • Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p>No answer required for Person 1</p> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Stepchild of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Brother or sister of Person 1 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Brother or sister of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) </div>
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52 Were there any people away on the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2016 who usually live in this dwelling? • 'Usually live' means the person has lived, or intends to live, at this address for a total of six months or more in 2016.	<input type="checkbox"/> No, no-one away ► Go to 54 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, someone away ► Go to 53		
53 For each person away, complete the following questions:			
Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was away on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> Surname or family name <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div>	First or given name <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> Surname or family name <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div>	First or given name <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> Surname or family name <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div>
Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year <div> <div>1</div><div>3</div><div>0</div><div>1</div><div>1</div><div>9</div><div>6</div><div>8</div> </div> OR <div> <div>4</div><div>8</div><div></div> </div> Years	Day Month Year <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> OR Age <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> Years	Day Month Year <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> OR Age <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> Years	Day Month Year <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> OR Age <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div> </div> Years
Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander
Is the person a full-time student?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> De facto partner of Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 1 only <input type="checkbox"/> Child of Person 2 only <input type="checkbox"/> Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) <div> <div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div> </div>
Please answer the following questions for this dwelling			

This topic provides information about the number of registered motor vehicles which are owned or used by

members of a household and which are garaged or parked near the occupied private dwelling on Census Night. Data on the number and distribution of vehicles is used to assess parking and public transport requirements. This information also serves as a useful socioeconomic indicator, either by itself or when cross-classified with other variables, to identify mobility and access to services.

BACKGROUND

A question on the number of vehicles was first asked in the 1966 Census. Since 1976, households have been asked to record the number of registered motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles and motor scooters) which are owned or used by members of the household and garaged at or near their dwelling.

For the 2001 Census, the question also included an option to record the number of motor bikes and motor scooters. In addition, the response field was changed to allow respondents to write in the actual number of vehicles rather than mark a self coding box.

In 2006 and 2011 data was collected on the number of registered motor vehicles only; motorbikes and motor scooters were excluded and this will again be the case for 2016. During the 2016 Census consultation period, this topic was one of those proposed for exclusion however user consultation indicated support for collection of data on this topic on a five yearly cycle. This question will therefore be included in the 2016 Census.

COMMENT

With alternative data sources becoming more available and accessible, it is anticipated that in the longer term alternative data sources may be sufficient in meeting user information needs on this topic. It is highly likely in future that administrative datasets (such as motor vehicle registry data) could be used to assist in providing information required for transport modelling.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>54 How many registered motor vehicles owned or used by residents of this dwelling were garaged or parked at or near this dwelling on the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2016?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include vans and company vehicles kept at home.• Exclude motorbikes and motor scooters.	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Motor vehicles</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> None</div>
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Number of bedrooms

NUMBER OF BEDROOMS

Data collected on this topic provide a count of the number of bedrooms in each occupied private dwelling. The number of bedrooms in a property gives an indication of property size, and the calculation of occupancy ratios can indicate dwelling utilisation or under-utilisation, and potential overcrowding. These data are also an important component in estimating homelessness and for investigating the number of people who are marginally housed.

BACKGROUND

A question on the number of rooms/bedrooms has been included in every Australian Census since 1911.

While the 1986 Census Household Form asked householders to indicate the numbers of various room types, only the number of bedrooms was retained in the computer record. The 1991 and 1996 Censuses collected data on the number of bedrooms only.

Since the 2001 Census, respondents have been asked to write in the number of bedrooms in their dwelling rather than mark a response category.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form

<p>55 How many bedrooms are there in this dwelling?</p> <p>• If the dwelling is a bedsitter, mark the 'None' box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Number of bedrooms</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
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Tenure type

TENURE TYPE

This topic provides information about tenure type (whether a dwelling is rented, owned with a mortgage or owned without a mortgage). Data on tenure type is used for planning, analysis and policy purposes; to monitor housing security, mobility issues and home ownership trends; and as a part of estimating/calculating homelessness and homelessness indicators. When cross-classified with other characteristics of households, this information is used to inform housing and social welfare policy and planning by the government and other providers.

BACKGROUND

Data about whether a dwelling is owned, being purchased or rented have been collected in all Censuses since 1911.

From 1971 until 1991, information on type of tenure was derived from the answers to more than one question. A single, direct question was used to determine type of tenure for the Censuses of 1996 and 2001 and more detailed responses were listed, enabling collection of details on a greater variety of tenancy/financial arrangements than in previous Censuses.

Since 2006, the question on tenure type has differentiated between owners with and without a mortgage, rather than whether a dwelling was owned outright or being purchased, in order to remain consistent with the current ABS statistical standard for tenure type. In the 2016 Census, the response category Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme was changed to refer to Being purchased under a shared equity scheme, to better reflect current arrangements.

COMMENT

It should be noted that the data gathered from tenure type questions cannot serve as a measure of housing stock, as the questions relate only to occupied dwellings.

QUESTION

The following question is from the 2016 Census Household Paper Form

<p>56 Is this dwelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include owners of caravans, manufactured homes or houseboats in 'Owned with a mortgage' or 'Owned outright' regardless of whether or not the site is owned. • Include leaseholds and loan and licence agreements in 'Being occupied under a life tenure scheme'. • Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Owned outright? ► Go to 59</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Owned with a mortgage? ► Go to 58</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Being purchased under a shared equity scheme? ► Go to 58</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Being rented?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Being occupied rent free?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Being occupied under a life tenure scheme?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other?</p>
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Landlord type

LANDLORD TYPE

This topic defines the landlord type for rented dwellings, such as whether the dwelling is rented privately, through a government agency or via another arrangement. Information collected on landlord type is important for housing policy making and planning, and for studying the housing conditions of sub-populations of specific interest.

This topic continues the Landlord type component of the Landlord Type/Rent topic from the 2011 and previous Censuses. The Rent component is now covered under the renamed Housing Costs topic.

BACKGROUND

The question about landlord type was first asked in the 1954 Census and has been included in every subsequent Census. At that time, if the landlord was a Government Authority, respondents were instructed to describe themselves as 'tenant'. In the 1961 Census, if the landlord was a State Housing Authority, respondents were again instructed to write 'tenant'. In 1966, tenants of the State Housing Authority could choose between marking the relevant State Housing Authority or the category Other landlord.

In 1971, the response categories increased to three: State Housing Authority; Employer; and Other landlord. The number of response categories continued to increase from three (from 1971 until 1991) to seven (in 1996 and 2001) and then to eight for subsequent Censuses.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>57 If this dwelling is being rented, who is it rented from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For all state/territory specific Government housing authorities, mark second box.• Some examples of Government housing authorities are: Housing NSW, Department of Health and Human Services (Vic.), Department of Housing and Public Works (Qld), Department of Housing (WA), Housing SA, Housing Tasmania, Department of Housing (NT), Housing ACT, Aboriginal housing authorities.• Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Real estate agent<input type="checkbox"/> Government Housing Authority/Housing Department (Public Housing)<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/other relative not in this dwelling<input type="checkbox"/> Other person not in this dwelling<input type="checkbox"/> Residential park (including caravan parks and marinas)<input type="checkbox"/> Employer – Government (including Defence Housing Authority)<input type="checkbox"/> Employer – Private<input type="checkbox"/> Housing co-operative; Community or Church Group
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Housing costs

HOUSING COSTS

Information collected under this topic provides details about rent and mortgage payments made by households for the dwelling in which they were enumerated on Census Night. Data from this topic is important as it is used to assist in setting benchmarks for the Consumer Price Index and Australian National Accounts. This data is also used to estimate homelessness and housing affordability.

This topic brings together the former Mortgage costs topic and the Rent component of the former Landlord Type/Rent topic. This change simply regroups the various types of information covered in a way more logical to users of the data.

BACKGROUND

A question on mortgage costs was asked for the first time in the 1976 Census. In the 1981 Census the question was simplified to ask only whether there was a mortgage on the dwelling and if so, the amount of the monthly payments on the total mortgage. In the 1986 and 1991 Censuses, the question asked for the amount of the monthly payment being made on the loan(s) for the dwelling.

A question on weekly rent paid for each dwelling has been asked in every Australian Census since 1911. In 1947, householders were also asked to indicate whether the dwelling was rented furnished or unfurnished. Since 1971, in addition to stating the weekly rent, householders have been asked to indicate the type of landlord.

Due to the emergence of shared equity and rent-buy schemes and strong user demand for actual amounts rather than range data, the actual amount paid for the dwelling has been collected since the 1996 Census. Responses to the tenure type question are used to determine whether payments are recorded as rent or loan repayments.

For the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, the order of questions was changed to position the tenure type question before the mortgage repayments/rent and landlord type questions. Sequencing from the tenure type question directs respondents who indicate that they own their own home past these questions. This ordering has been retained for the 2016 Census.

COMMENT

When interpreting Census data on housing costs, it should be noted that households may be accelerating the repayment of the principal on their mortgage (a form of saving) or reducing their payments if they are already

ahead of payment schedule. The increased popularity of more flexible mortgage products, such as loans with offset facilities or line of credit loans for example, are also likely to make interpretation of this data more difficult.

QUESTION

The following questions are from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>57 If this dwelling is being rented, who is it rented from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all state/territory specific Government housing authorities, mark second box. Some examples of Government housing authorities are: Housing NSW, Department of Health and Human Services (Vic.), Department of Housing and Public Works (Qld), Department of Housing (WA), Housing SA, Housing Tasmania, Department of Housing (NT), Housing ACT, Aboriginal housing authorities. Remember to mark the box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Real estate agent <input type="checkbox"/> Government Housing Authority/Housing Department (Public Housing) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/other relative not in this dwelling <input type="checkbox"/> Other person not in this dwelling <input type="checkbox"/> Residential park (including caravan parks and marinas) <input type="checkbox"/> Employer – Government (including Defence Housing Authority) <input type="checkbox"/> Employer – Private <input type="checkbox"/> Housing co-operative; Community or Church Group
<p>58 How much does your household pay for this dwelling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include rent and mortgage repayments and site fees if the dwelling is a caravan or manufactured home in a caravan park or manufactured home estate. Exclude water rates, council rates, repairs, maintenance and other fees. If no payments, please mark the 'Nil payments' box like this: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<p>\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> per week</p> <p>OR</p> <p>\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> per fortnight</p> <p>OR</p> <p>\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> per month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nil payments</p>

Dwelling internet connection

DWELLING INTERNET CONNECTION

This topic records whether anyone in the household accesses the internet from the dwelling. Data gained from this question provides information about the number and characteristics of people who lack access to the internet and may therefore be in danger of social exclusion. The data gained from this question can be used with other data to allow the fine level of disaggregation required by users.

The 2016 question differs from the 2011 question in that it asks about people accessing the internet from the dwelling and not about type of internet connection to the dwelling.

BACKGROUND

Data on internet and computer use by individuals was collected for the first time in the 2001 Census. In 2006 and 2011, a question on dwelling internet connection asked whether private dwellings had an internet connection and about the type of connection (i.e. broadband, dial-up or other). The 2016 question asks whether private dwellings have any people who access the internet from the dwelling, without details of the type of connection.

COMMENT

Information Communications Technology (ICT) is a very dynamic field, and this rapid growth has created many new information needs. Increasingly, interest is focusing on more complex issues such as the capacities of particular technologies, and the personal use of ICT. For these reasons the wording in this question is very likely to be reviewed for the 2021 Census.

QUESTION

The following question is from the paper 2016 Census Household Form.

<p>59 Does any member of this household access the internet from this dwelling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include internet access using desktop/laptop computers, mobile or smart phones, tablets, music or video players, gaming consoles, smart TVs etc. Include internet access through any type of connection including ADSL, fibre, cable, wireless, satellite and mobile broadband (3G/4G). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Dwelling structure

DWELLING STRUCTURE

This topic records the structure of private dwellings (that is, whether the dwelling is a separate house; semi-detached house; apartment or flat; or other less common structure). Information gathered from this question is used to determine changes in levels of housing stock and patterns of use, including changes in housing density. It also assists in urban and neighbourhood design; transport planning; land use forecasting; and in the compilation of homeless estimates.

BACKGROUND

A question on this topic has been included in every Australian Census since 1911. In 1961, the response option Caravan was included for the first time and since 1986 residents of caravans in caravan parks have been enumerated on household forms.

Up to the 2011 Census details on dwelling structure have been recorded by Census Field Officers when they delivered the Census form. This method resulted in a marginal increase in collection costs but required no response by the public. For the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, this question was included in the Collector Record Book rather than on the back of the household form.

For the 2016 Census, data on this topic will be collected during field work by ABS Address Canvassing Officers in the lead-up to the Census, as part of establishing the Address Register as a mail-out frame for designated areas. In areas enumerated using the traditional (non mail-out) approach, the topic will be collected by ABS Field Officers during the 2016 Census enumeration period. Private dwelling structure data will also be updated as required by ABS Field Officers during the 2016 Census enumeration period.

For the 2016 Census, there will be a change to one of the response categories for this question. The previous category of Caravan, cabin or houseboat will be separated into two categories: 'Caravan' and 'Cabin or houseboat' which will facilitate more accurate identification of people who are marginally housed in caravans.

TYPE OF QUESTION

Dwelling structure information is collected by ABS Address Canvassing Officers or Census Field Officers.

The following information is collected:

- **Separate house (one or more levels)**
- **Semi-detached house, row/terrace or townhouse**
 - 1 level
 - 2 or more levels
- **Flat, unit or apartment**
 - In a 1 or 2 level building
 - In a 3 level building
 - In a 4 or more level building
 - Attached to a house
- **Caravan**
- **Cabin or houseboat**
- **Improvised dwelling, tent, sleep out**
- **Dwelling attached to a non-residential building e.g. attached to a shop, church, school, factory etc.**

Location of private dwelling

LOCATION OF PRIVATE DWELLING

This topic is designed to provide information about private dwellings in some less common locations. These are Caravan/residential park or camping ground; Marinas; Manufactured home estates; and Retirement villages (self-contained accommodation). Therefore the majority of private dwellings, which are located elsewhere, fall into the Other category for this question.

BACKGROUND

This classification was introduced for the 1996 Census to cater for changes in the scope of private dwellings. From this time onwards:

- self contained units in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates have been counted as private dwellings (dwellings in caravan parks and marinas have been included as private dwellings since the 1986 Census)
- all private dwellings have been classified according to their location, i.e. whether Caravan/residential park or camping ground; Marina; Manufactured home estate; Retirement village (self-contained); or Other. From this information, data is able to be produced for both dwellings and households based on their location.

This classification complements the private dwelling structure classification and enables the ABS to meet user requirements for data about these less common forms of housing and their occupants.

Up to and including the 2011 Census, this information was collected by Census Field Officers in the Collector Record Book at the time the Census forms were delivered.

For the 2016 Census, data on this topic will be collected during field work by ABS Address Canvassing Officers in the lead-up to the Census, as part of establishing the Address Register as a mail-out frame for designated areas. In areas enumerated using the traditional (non mail-out) approach, the topic will be collected for each dwelling by ABS Field Officers when delivering forms. Location of private dwelling data will also be updated as required by ABS Field Officers during the 2016 Census enumeration period.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The Dwelling location question is answered by ABS Address Canvassing Officers and Census Field Officers.

The following information is collected:

- manufactured home estate
- retirement village
- marina
- caravan park.

Type of non-private dwelling

TYPE OF NON-PRIVATE DWELLING

Non-private dwellings are those which provide a communal or transitory type of accommodation, such as hotels, nursing homes, corrective institutions, boarding schools, staff quarters and hospitals. This topic produces data on the number and characteristics of people who spend Census Night in a non-private dwelling.

BACKGROUND

Non-private dwellings have been enumerated and classified in all Australian Censuses. Up to and including the 1981 Census caravan parks were classified as non-private dwellings. However, from the 1986 Census onwards, caravans in caravan parks have been enumerated as private dwellings.

Until the 1996 Census, self contained dwellings in retirement villages and dwellings in manufactured home estates were also classified as non-private dwellings.

In the 2006 Census, additional response options were introduced to identify immigration detention centres, youth/backpacker hostels and ski lodges. These options were retained in the 2011 Census and will also be included in the 2016 Census. For the 2016 Census, a separate category for Mining camps has been added as a subset of the Staffing accommodation category to enable more accurate identification.

For the 2016 Census, data on this topic will be collected during field work by ABS Address Canvassing Officers in the lead-up to the Census, as part of establishing the Address Register as a mail-out frame for designated areas. In areas enumerated using the traditional (non mail-out) approach, the topic will be collected by ABS Field Officers during the 2016 Census enumeration period. Private dwelling structure data will also be updated as required by ABS Field Officers during the 2016 Census enumeration period.

TYPE OF QUESTION

The type of non-private dwelling question is answered by ABS Address Canvassing Officers or Census Field Officers.

The following draft question is from the 2016 Census Field Officers Field Record.

4 Description of this establishment

- For each type of establishment at this address, please use a separate NPD Field Record.
- Mark one box only, like this: ☒

General accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Hotel / motel<input type="checkbox"/> Bed and breakfast<input type="checkbox"/> Youth / backpacker hostel<input type="checkbox"/> Ski lodge<input type="checkbox"/> Boarding house, private hotel	Staffing accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Nurses' quarters<input type="checkbox"/> Mining camps<input type="checkbox"/> Other staff quarters
Medical / aged care accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Public hospital (not psychiatric)<input type="checkbox"/> Private hospital (not psychiatric)<input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric hospital or institution<input type="checkbox"/> Hostel for the disabled<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing home<input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self contained)	Crisis and welfare accommodations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Hostel for the homeless, night shelter, refuge<input type="checkbox"/> Childcare institution<input type="checkbox"/> Other welfare institution
Educational accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Boarding school<input type="checkbox"/> Residential college / hall of residence	Corrective and detention institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Corrective institution for children<input type="checkbox"/> Prison or corrective institution for adults<input type="checkbox"/> Immigration detention centre
Other establishment Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>	Miscellaneous <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Convent, monastery, etc.

Comments about the description of this establishment:

Census Time Capsule

CENSUS TIME CAPSULE

From the 2001 Census onwards, the Census form has included an optional question asking whether each person in the household agrees to have their personally-identified information kept and securely held by the National Archives of Australia (NAA) for 99 years. This personally-identified Census information will not be available for any purpose (including to courts and tribunals) within the 99 year closed access period and cannot be accessed, altered or retrieved before that time.

After 99 years, the name-identified data will be made public for future generations. The first batch of such information, from the 2001 Census, will be publically available in 2100. Those accessing the information could include genealogists, historians, social analysts and other researchers in the 22nd century.

Unlike other questions, the Census Time Capsule question on the form does not relate to a specific Census Topic and is not listed in the Census Regulations, with other topics. Rather, the Census Time Capsule was made possible by an amendment to the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

The Time Capsule question is asked in relation to every person in the household. If only one person in a household wants to participate in the Census Time Capsule, then only that person's information will be kept. The person completing the form on behalf of the household should consult with each person in the household and

accurately indicate the view of each person on the form. The person completing the form must also sign the paper form, or agree to a statement on the online form, to indicate that they have done so.

If a person answers 'Yes, agrees' in response to the question, and the form is signed, then their personally-identified information supplied on that Census form will be preserved by the NAA for 99 years before being made publically available. If a person answers 'No, does not agree', or does not answer the question, or the form is not signed, the information will not be preserved by the NAA.

Parents and guardians who complete the Census form on behalf of children can complete this question for them. For people who are legally unable to make a choice, their legal guardians can answer on their behalf.

About this Release

Outlines the content of the 2016 Census of Population and Housing and the procedures to be followed in collecting, processing and disseminating the data.

History of Changes

11/08/2017

Removal of the 17 October 2017 in favour of month and year only. Change completed on the fourth paragraph within Topic release schedule.

03/03/2017

Replacement content has been added to the topics release schedule for 2016 Census data. The page now confirms the main data release of 27 June 2017, and lists have been updated of when data for every Census topic will be released.

21/09/2016

Updated 2016 Census topic release schedule outlining the release dates of 2016 Census data.

09/06/2016

A spreadsheet containing a list of topics included in the Census from 1911 to 2016, and the changes to these, has been added.

21/04/2016

'Legal authority, confidentiality and privacy' - This section has been amended to include information about the retention of names and addresses collected on Census forms. Information about measures to maintain confidentiality of personal information is also included.

'Census Time Capsule' - An amendment has been made to this chapter to remove reference to microfilm, due to planned technological changes.

ABS releases information about 2016 Census topics (Media Release)

MEDIA RELEASE

20 August 2015

Embargoed: 11.30 am (Canberra time)

91/2015

ABS releases information about 2016 Census topics

Following the recent announcement that the next Census will be held on 9 August 2016, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today released *Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016*.

This information paper outlines the nature and content of the 2016 Census, including information on the topics, questions, and processes for conducting the Census.

Australian Statistician David Kalisch said the 2016 Australian Census will remain one of the most comprehensive Censuses in the world with 45 topics.

"The ABS appreciates submissions received from interested parties about the retention of topics and new topics for inclusion in the 2016 and future Censuses," Mr Kalisch said.

“To maintain important time series information and to ensure the 2016 Census can be delivered within allocated funding, 2016 Census topics will be the same as in the previous two Censuses, with minor changes to enhance some Census questions.”

Mr Kalisch again encouraged everyone in Australia to take advantage of the fast, easy and highly secure online option when they participate on 9 August next year.

“We’re changing the way we conduct the Census to increase online participation and increase efficiency. This will make it easier for people to complete and save taxpayers money,” Mr Kalisch said.

“Paper forms will still be available for anyone who needs one, and it will be fast and easy to get one.

“The Census is compulsory, so the most important thing is that everyone participates on Census night in 2016. This will give us a full and accurate snapshot of the nation to help inform planning for the future,” he said.

For more Census information, visit the ABS website www.abs.gov.au Further information about planned 2016 Census data products and services will be published on the website in 2016.

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ACLD	Australian Longitudinal Census Dataset
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
ASCCEG	Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
DCC	Data Capture Centre
Form ID	Form Identifier
G-NAF	Geocoded National Address File
GST	goods and services tax
ICR	Intelligent Character Recognition
ICT	Information Communications Technology
LGA	Local Government Area
NAA	National Archives of Australia
SA1	Statistical Area Level 1
SLA	Statistical Local Area